





the standard-bearer

NATIONAL ACCREDITATION COUNCIL

*For Agencies Serving the Blind
and Visually Handicapped*

84 Fifth Avenue • New York, N. Y. 10011 • (212) 691-3232

No. 1

March, 1967

NAC OPENS FOR BUSINESS

The banner waving briskly at the top of the page was sent aloft on the first business day of 1967, when the National Accreditation Council began operations in fulfillment of its mandate to work for improved services for the blind and visually handicapped through a nationwide program of accreditation, development and maintenance of standards, research and education.

Tooling up for solid performance has been the order of the day since the Council moved into its quarters at 84 Fifth Avenue, New York. Recruitment of staff and establishment of basic records and systems, as well as the myriad organizational details involved in any new enterprise, have been the principal pre-occupations of executive director Alexander F. Handel.

Initiation of this quarterly newsletter is one of the tasks achieved. STANDARD-BEARER will serve as a major medium of communication from the National Accreditation Council to the organizations and institutions, voluntary and public, whose work with the blind gives them a stake in the NAC program.

Included in the STANDARD-BEARER mailing list are the many hundreds of agency executives and board members, specialists and practitioners in services for the blind, community leaders and educators who participated in the development, review and refinement of the performance standards which NAC is designed to implement.

BOARD TO MEET IN APRIL

Application fees and procedures and membership dues will be among the major topics on the agenda when the National Accreditation Council's Board of Directors meets in New York April 7-8. Arthur L. Brandon, NAC president, will chair the two-day session.

The Council is aiming to have application materials ready for distribution during the early Summer, according to executive director Alexander F. Handel. The materials will contain instructions and forms for use by agencies ready to begin the self-study which is the first step toward accreditation.

COLLINGWOOD JOINS STAFF

Huesten Collingwood, who carried a number of key professional and administrative assignments in the work of the National Accreditation Council's predecessor body, the Commission on Standards and Accreditation of Services for the Blind, will join the Council as a staff associate in mid-March.

In addition to staffing the Commission's Committee on Standards for Personnel Administration, Mr. Collingwood was in charge of arrangements for the historic National Conference on Standards convened in November 1965. Among other administrative responsibilities, he participated actively in conceiving and producing the COMSTAC NEWSLETTER, of which 13 issues were published during the life of the Commission.

To accept the NAC post, Mr. Collingwood resigned as Director of the Personnel and Training Service of the American Foundation for the Blind, a position he had held for five years. His prior professional experience was with the Travelers Aid Society of Metropolitan Chicago where, during a nine-year period punctuated by two years of military service, he served first as a caseworker and then as case-work supervisor and supervisor of statistics. His military duty was with the Medical Service Corps in which, with the rank of First Lieutenant, he functioned as chief social worker at two outpatient mental health facilities.

A graduate of Union College, Mr. Collingwood took his master's degree in social work at the University of Chicago. His current professional affiliations include membership in the American Association of Workers for the Blind and the New York City Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers.

COMSTAC Report in Demand; Standards Already in Use

With more than 1500 copies sold during the first three months after publication and new orders arriving daily, THE COMSTAC REPORT: STANDARDS FOR STRENGTHENED SERVICES has clearly evoked widespread interest and attention, not only in the United States and Canada but in Europe, the Near East and Asia as well.

Even more encouraging than the sales figures and the favorable comments from readers have been reports that the book is already in active use in many parts of the nation.

A New England agency writes: "Our Association is already under way in its self-study toward working for accreditation. We have set up an over-all Agency Program Service Committee... to study nine different areas of service which we render blind persons."

From a Midwestern state comes a note: "We are eager to cooperate with you and be one of the first rehabilitation centers to be accredited... We think we will be in good shape for accreditation within the next few months."

A university official writes: "In the development of our Workshop Training Program for Executive Management...we shall make frequent reference to the report and use the data to enhance our training concepts and procedures."

From a state agency in the East comes a copy of specifications for a new building with a note that the writer "drew heavily" on the report's Standards for Physical Facilities.

A letter from an officer of a voluntary agency in the Southwest states that the board has "already found the standards useful in evaluating and trying to improve our own agency."

Notes from overseas contain comments such as "the report will doubtless be of influence on the international scene" and "the book is clear, practical and authoritative."

The impact of THE COMSTAC REPORT has not been limited to work with the blind. An authority in the sheltered workshop field calls the report "a most impressive book" and adds, "sections of it are already being put to use in the field of rehabilitation." An executive of a national health organization describes the report as "a valuable resource" which "will meet a great need and, I'm sure, will prove to be a valuable reference for all organizations, both within and outside the field of blindness, concerned with provision of social welfare activities." From a professor at a graduate school of social work comes a note terming the report "excellent" and remarking, "I will not be surprised if it will be used for standard setting in many agencies." In still another area, a specialist in fund-raising and public relations declares: "This is a notable addition to a body of literature which needs such nourishment."

BRAILLE AND RECORDED EDITIONS UNDER WAY

With recorded and braille editions of THE COMSTAC REPORT now in production (see announcement on reverse side of this sheet), blind and visually handicapped persons will shortly have convenient access to the findings of more than 100 specialists on ways of providing improved services.

It is expected that these special editions will be useful not only to the approximately 1800 blind persons now working in the field of service for the blind, but also to visually handicapped persons working or teaching or studying in other professional fields concerned with community services.

As indicated in the announcement, while loan copies of the recorded and braille versions will be available from regional libraries for the blind, only a limited number of copies have been ordered for sale, at production cost, to those wishing to have permanent reference copies. Orders received after the initial supply has been exhausted will be subject to delay and probably to higher prices.

Now in Preparation

Recorded and Braille Editions

THE COMSTAC REPORT: Standards for Strengthened Services

These editions will give visually handicapped persons convenient access to the historic document which presents *the fruits of three years of study by more than 100 experts* on ways of achieving new heights of excellence in services for the blind. The report's contents include detailed standards of performance in five areas of administration and in seven specific types of service programs.

Limited editions of the recorded and braille versions have been ordered for sale, at cost, to agencies and individuals wishing to have permanent reference copies of THE COMSTAC REPORT for study and use.

RECORDED EDITION—anticipated publication date, March 1
13 ten-inch disks, 16-2/3 rpm. \$10.00

BRAILLE EDITION—anticipated publication date, June 1
9 volumes \$6.00

Both editions will also be available to qualified users on free loan from regional libraries for the blind.

To be sure of obtaining the copies you need without having to wait for later editions (which cannot be produced as inexpensively as the initial run), **place your order now.**

Use the order form also
to secure additional
inkprint copies of
THE
COMSTAC
REPORT
for use by your
board, staff,
and volunteers

National Accreditation Council
84 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10011

Enclosed find \$ _____ (make checks payable to National Accreditation Council) for
THE COMSTAC REPORT: Standards for Strengthened Services.

_____ copies, RECORDED edition @ \$10.00

_____ copies, BRAILLE edition @ \$6.00

_____ copies, LIBRARY INKPRINT edition @ \$6.00

_____ copies, PAPERBACK INKPRINT edition @ \$3.00

Name _____

Agency _____

Street Address _____

City and State _____ Zip _____

WHO'S WHO ON N A C BOARD

Viewed in cross-section, the composition of NAC's first Board of Directors reflects the diversity of interests encompassed in services to the blind.

Fourteen states and the District of Columbia are represented in the 32-member board, with the heaviest concentrations in states at the two coastal extremes -- New York with six members, California with five. North-to-south coverage stretches from Maine to Texas.

Eight directors are serving in a lay capacity:

Five are business or professional men: J. Kenneth Cozier, Cleveland, Ohio, president, Cozier Container Corporation; Hon. Horace A. Hildreth, Portland, Maine, president, Hildreth Radio and TV Network; William H. Nichols, Columbus, Ohio, vice-president, Nationwide Insurance Company; Frederick G. Storey, Atlanta, Ga., president, Storey Theatres, Inc.; Ira A. Schur, New York, N.Y., managing partner, S. D. Leidesdorf & Co. One is a volunteer: Mrs. Frederick Romberg, Dallas, Texas, vice-president, Dallas Services for Blind Children. Two others have in the past held professional posts in work for the blind but are acting as laymen on the NAC Board: Richard E. Hoover, M.D., Baltimore, Md., ophthalmologist, and M. Anne McGuire, Waynesville, N.C., consultant in social administration.

Ten directors are affiliated with public agencies:

Robert S. Bray, Washington, D.C., chief, Division for the Blind, Library of Congress; Kenneth W. Bryan, San Francisco, Calif., assistant general manager, San Francisco Department of Social Welfare; James G. Haughton, M.D., New York, N.Y., first deputy administrator, Health Services Administration of New York City; Kenneth Jernigan, Des Moines, Iowa, director, State of Iowa Commission for the Blind; Norman V. Lourie, Harrisburg, Pa., executive deputy secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare; Ewald Nyquist, Albany, N.Y., deputy commissioner, New York State Department of Education; Louis H. Rives, Jr., Washington, D.C., special assistant to the commissioner, Vocational Rehabilitation Administration; Warren Thompson, Sacramento, Calif., director, Department of Rehabilitation, California Health and Welfare Agency; J. Max Woolly, Little Rock, Ark., superintendent, Arkansas School for the Blind; Norman M. Yoder, Harrisburg, Pa., commissioner, Office for the Blind, Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare.

Nine directors are affiliated with voluntary organizations:

M. Robert Barnett, New York, N.Y., executive director, American Foundation for the Blind; Thomas E. Caulfield, M.D., Newton, Mass., administrator, St. Paul's Rehabilitation Center for the Blind; John W. Ferree, M.D., New York, N.Y., executive director, National Society for the Prevention of Blindness; Melvin A. Glasser, Detroit, Mich., director, Social Security Department, United Auto Workers of America; John R. May, San Francisco, Calif., executive director, San

Francisco Foundation; Murray B. Meld, San Francisco, Calif., West Coast representative, Greenleigh Associates; Peter J. Salmon, Brooklyn, N.Y., administrative vice-president, Industrial Home for the Blind; Henry A. Talbert, Los Angeles, Calif., Western regional director, National Urban League; McAllister Upshaw, Detroit, Mich., executive director, Metropolitan Society for the Blind.

Of the 19 directors occupying posts in public or voluntary organizations, eight are connected with national bodies and 11 with local groups.

The five remaining directors are in the field of education:

Arthur L. Brandon, Lewisburg, Pa., consultant in higher education; Benjamin F. Boyer, Philadelphia, Pa., professor, School of Law, Temple University; Robert Morris, Waltham, Mass., professor of community planning, Florence Heller Graduate School for Advanced Studies in Social Welfare, Brandeis University; Homer Rainey, Boulder, Colo., professor of higher education, University of Colorado; Geraldine Scholl, Ann Arbor, Mich., professor, School of Education, University of Michigan.

Analyzing the composition of the Board of Directors from still another viewpoint, it is of interest that seven of the 32 directors are blind or visually handicapped.

Members of this first Board of Directors were appointed, and are serving one-year terms. Future members will be elected by the Council's House of Delegates, a body representing the member agencies, and will serve for three-year periods, with one-third of the membership coming up for election each year under a system of rotation.

For purposes of continuity of leadership, the first board was built around a nucleus of persons who had actively served on NAC's predecessor body, the Commission on Standards and Accreditation of Services for the Blind. Of the 32 members appointed, 23 comprise such a nucleus; 20 were Commission members and three served on standards committees. The nine NAC directors who were not officially connected with the Commission are Messrs. Barnett, Ferree, Houghton, Jernigan, Lourie, Nichols and Nyquist, Mrs. Romberg and Dr. Scholl.

MAILING LIST SUGGESTIONS WELCOME

It is NAC's hope to make the mailing list for STANDARD-BEARER as complete as possible, so as to keep in touch with all who recognize in the existence of the Council an instrument of helpful change in a vital form of human service. Recommendations of names to be added will be gratefully received. In the meantime, readers are asked to pass this first issue on to interested colleagues.

Agency executives, please note: In future, copies can be supplied in bulk for distribution to your board and staff if you indicate the quantity required.



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No. 2

Fall, 1967

NYQUIST HEADS COMMISSION ON ACCREDITATION

Ewald B. Nyquist, New York State deputy commissioner of education, has accepted chairmanship of the Commission on Accreditation, one of two major program arms of the National Accreditation Council for Agencies Serving the Blind and Visually Handicapped.

In announcing establishment of the Commission and appointment of its members, NAC president Arthur L. Brandon defined its charge as: (1) to formulate policies, methods and procedures for evaluation, periodic reevaluation and approval of agencies applying for accreditation; (2) to act on each individual application; and (3) to develop policy for working agreements between the Council and other appropriate accrediting bodies.

"The Board considers it a stroke of exceptional good fortune," Mr. Brandon said, "that Mr. Nyquist has consented to give leadership to a committee whose work will play so central a role in the development of the National Accreditation Council. Apart from his eminent personal and professional qualifications, Mr. Nyquist has an intimate knowledge of the accreditation process. He spent a total of eleven years in posts of key responsibility - five years as secretary and six years as chairman - in the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, the regional agency which accredits colleges and universities in the Middle Atlantic States." Since 1960 he has been an honorary member of that body.

The eight other members of NAC's Commission on Accreditation are: Benjamin F. Boyer, professor of law, Temple University, Philadelphia; Robert S. Bray, chief, Division for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Library of Congress, Washington; Robert C. Goodpasture, executive vice president, National Industries for the Blind, New York; Joseph Kohn, executive director, New Jersey State Commission for the Blind; Douglas C. MacFarland, Ph.D., chief, Division of Services to the Blind, U.S. Vocational Rehabilitation Administration, Washington; Homer P. Rainey, Ph.D., professor of higher education, University of Colorado; Harold G. Roberts, associate director for service, American Foundation for the Blind, New York; Wesley D. Sprague, executive director, New York Association for the Blind.

ACCREDITATION POLICIES IN PREPARATION

A statement of operating policies and procedures to be followed by the Commission on Accreditation is nearing completion as this issue of STANDARD-BEARER goes to press. Copies of the basic document will be available for distribution following final approval by the NAC Board of Directors.

Summarized highlights of its contents include:

1. The Commission's appraisal of the degree to which an agency meets the Council's standards for accreditation and membership will be made in the light of the agency's own stated purpose and objectives.

2. Application for accreditation and membership is made in writing, accompanied by a non-refundable fee of \$150. Application forms will be available shortly from the Council's office.

3. The first step in the accreditation process is a comprehensive and critical self-study conducted by the applicant agency. This self-study is made within the framework of appropriate manuals and guidelines supplied by the Council. The self-study is expected to take a number of months to complete.

4. Examination by the Commission on Accreditation of the agency's report of its self-study is followed by an on-site review made by a team of qualified professional peers. This may be preceded by a preliminary visit to the agency by the team's chairman to arrange for efficient and mutually convenient scheduling of the review process.

Members of the review team, who will be selected from a panel of several hundred qualified professionals (see "Hundreds Sign Up," page 5), will contribute their time and services without charge; their travel and living expenses during the review visit will be defrayed by the agency seeking accreditation. The review team will consist of a minimum of three members, but may be substantially larger, depending on the size of the agency and the multiplicity of specialized programs. The list of team members selected by the Commission will be made known to the agency in advance, to facilitate appropriate arrangements and accommodations.

5. On receipt of the review team's report, the Commission on Accreditation may take one of three actions: (a) award accredited status subject to the agency's meeting the other qualifications for membership; (b) postpone final decision pending action by the agency to remove specified obstacles which prevent immediate accreditation; or (c) deny accredited status on specified grounds.

6. Complete confidentiality is applied to applications for accreditation, the findings of the on-site review teams, and the decisions of the Commission. Only successful achievement of accredited status will be publicized.

7. Provision is made for an appeals procedure which agencies may employ to challenge an unfavorable ruling by the Commission.

8. Accredited status takes effect once the agency approved by the Commission has qualified for membership in the National Accreditation Council through payment of membership dues and other appropriate action. A dues schedule, established by the Council's Board of Directors, is on a sliding scale approximating 1/20th of 1 per cent of the agency's annual operating budget. The range is from a minimum of \$50 to a maximum of \$500 per year.

SELF-STUDY MANUALS SCHEDULED FOR EARLY COMPLETION

Work is well along on the development of manuals for self-study and evaluation, for use in the accreditation process. Publication by December is the aim.

With Charles I. Sheldon, assistant executive director of NAC, serving as coordinator, the self-study and evaluative instruments designed to implement the standards set forth in THE COMSTAC REPORT are being devised by the following group of specialists:

H. Kenneth Fitzgerald, D.S.W., associate professor, School of Social Work, Syracuse University; Saul Freedman, coordinator of rehabilitation services, New York Association for the Blind; Charles Gallozzi, assistant chief, Division for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Library of Congress; Leon Klein, rehabilitation facilities specialist, New York State Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped; Mrs. Louise N. Mumm, former staff consultant, National Social Welfare Assembly; Joseph W. Pike, executive director, Albany Association of the Blind; and Geraldine T. Scholl, Ph.D., associate professor of education, University of Michigan.

An introductory section, detailing the procedural steps entailed in an agency self-study as well as specific guidelines for the use of the evaluative instruments, is being written by Ablett H. Flury, Ed.D., educational consultant and former executive secretary, Commission on Secondary Schools, Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION TACKLES SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT

NAC's Board of Directors has authorized the appointment of a committee of specially qualified educators to advise the Commission on Accreditation on development of evaluative instruments specifically applicable to residential schools for the blind. The committee's task will be to adapt and correlate the Council's standards with the nationally accepted standards now applied to educational and residential facilities for all children.

In pursuance of this authorization, Mr. Brandon has named Dr. Jack W. Birch, associate dean, School of Education, University of Pittsburgh, to chair an Advisory Committee on the Accreditation of Educational Services. Serving with Dr. Birch are:

Donald Blasch, director, Blind Rehabilitation Programs,
Western Michigan University

William H. English, principal, Department for the Blind,
Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind

Margaret Esch, principal, Western Pennsylvania School
for Blind Children

Dr. Ablett H. Flury, educational consultant

Dr. Joseph J. Parnicky, superintendent, Edward R.
Johnstone Training and Research Center, Bordentown, N.J.

Leland C. Sanborn, superintendent, New York
State School for the Blind

Josephine L. Taylor, coordinator, Unit for the Visually
Handicapped, U.S. Office of Education, Washington
(and former director of educational services, New Jersey
State Commission for the Blind)

Acting as a special staff consultant to this Advisory Committee will be Dr. Geraldine T. Scholl, associate professor of special education, University of Michigan, who is devoting a sabbatical leave from the university to the project.

The Advisory Committee's charge includes preparation of self-study and evaluative instruments for initial testing by residential schools for the blind, and working with a selected group of such schools in trying out the applicability and effectiveness of these materials in improving those schools' performance. Five schools have agreed to work with the Advisory Committee in this pioneering project. They are: Arkansas School for the Blind, Maryland School for the Blind, Ohio State School for the Blind, Oregon State School for the Blind and Perkins School for the Blind.

The evaluative instruments prepared by the Advisory Committee will be based on the standards for education in THE COMSTAC REPORT and on adaptations of two existing sets of criteria endorsed by that report. These are: Criteria for Evaluation of Catholic Elementary Schools, 1965, issued by the National Catholic Educational Association, and Evaluative Criteria, 1960 Edition, issued by the National Study of Secondary School Evaluation.

The product of the Advisory Committee's work will constitute one of NAC's manuals for self-study and evaluation, now in process of preparation. (See preceding article.)

HUNDREDS SIGN UP TO SERVE ON REVIEW TEAMS

More than 400 specialists in professional, technical, and administrative disciplines have already accepted appointment to the roster, now being developed, of qualified persons willing to serve as members of on-site review teams. Invitations are still being issued and it is anticipated that additions will be made periodically in order to maintain a permanent roster numbering close to 1,000 persons.

"The ready response of so many busy people to contribute their services to the nationwide movement for improvement of work for the blind through a system of accreditation is a tribute to the dedication and determination of those engaged in this field to move forward with unremitting energy toward a needed and long overdue goal," according to NAC president Arthur L. Brandon.

"An additional indication of enthusiastic support for NAC's objectives," Mr. Brandon added, "has been the promptness with which professional leaders in all parts of the country have responded to a request for qualified names for such a roster." More than 800 nominations have been received to date.

The need for an extensive roster, Mr. Brandon explained, is two-fold: (1) to have potential review team members available in all parts of the country, so as to keep travel time and costs to a minimum; and (2) to avoid having to ask any one person for this type of volunteer service more often than once or twice a year.

SHELDON NAMED ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Charles I. Sheldon, a social planning executive with years of experience in community organization work on state, county and city levels, joined the NAC staff in the capacity of assistant executive director in late April.

Prior to accepting the NAC post, Mr. Sheldon served with the New York City Community Mental Health Board where, as assistant to the commissioner, he had been in charge of long-range program development and review of agency performance. Earlier, he spent two years as regional mental health planning representative for the New York State Department of Mental Hygiene on a special statewide planning project, and seven years as staff consultant on health programs for the Westchester Council of Social Agencies.

A native of Massachusetts and graduate of the New England School of Accounting, Mr. Sheldon practiced in this field until World War II, when he served as a captain in the U.S. Army Medical Administrative Corps. He holds a B.S. from Washington University, St. Louis, and a M.S.W. from Columbia University.

Mr. Sheldon is a member of the American Association of Workers for the Blind, the American Public Health Association, the National Association of Social Workers and the National Rehabilitation Association.

AAWB DISCONTINUES SEAL OF GOOD PRACTICE

The end of 1967 will see the end of the trailblazing policy of the American Association of Workers for the Blind to award a Seal of Good Practice to agencies conforming to AAWB's Code of Ethics.

The discontinuance of these awards was officially enacted in July - at AAWB's 1967 National Convention in Miami Beach - as one of a number of amendments to the Association's constitution and by-laws. In recommending this amendment, the committee charged with revision of the by-laws advised that use of the seal be terminated "because of the establishment of the National Accreditation Council, and the desire of the Association to support this Council in every way possible and not to duplicate its functions."

The AAWB's Ethics Committee, which had been in charge of awarding the Seal of Good Practice, asked that the committee be disbanded by reason of this change in the by-laws. In its final report to the Annual Convention, the Ethics Committee specified a succession of orderly steps to be followed in withdrawal of the seal from agencies to which it had been awarded. Its report concluded with this statement: "It is our unanimous hope that the accreditation program will fulfill all of the ambitions with which the Code of Ethics was promulgated and implemented."

GROWING ENDORSEMENT FOR ACCREDITATION

The Vocational Rehabilitation Administration "will encourage State rehabilitation agencies to use accredited facilities, just as we have urged them to use accredited hospitals," Miss Mary E. Switzer declares in the foreword to a new V.R.A. publication, "Standards for Rehabilitation Facilities and Sheltered Workshops," recently published by the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

Miss Switzer, who served 17 years as head of vocational rehabilitation services in the Department, was named in August to the newly created post of administrator of the Department's Social and Rehabilitation Service. Her expanded responsibilities under a reorganization of various units of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare include the Welfare Administration, Vocational Rehabilitation Administration, Administration on Aging, and the Mental Retardation Division of the Bureau of Health Services.

Noting that the Vocational Rehabilitation Administration has "encouraged and actively supported the development of standards" by various national groups, and that "the results of their work will now be used by two recently established voluntary accreditation bodies: the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities, and the National Accreditation Council for Agencies Serving the Blind and Visually Handicapped," Miss Switzer urges administrators, governing boards, community agencies and purchasers of service

to study carefully and to utilize the standards. Miss Switzer concludes: "The inevitable result of these activities will be better services for handicapped people."

Growing recognition of the need for standards of care and for methods of achieving them has been voiced in many other contexts, local as well as national. A recent editorial in The New York Times on the administration of the Medicaid program for the medically indigent declares that "the community as a whole, paying for the care of thousands of patients, has the right to establish quality standards and the duty to enforce them. The city authorities would be derelict in their duty if they made no provision for expert evaluation of the quality of care the community is financing."

COLLEAGUES IN THE NEWS

NAC president Arthur L. Brandon has been busy during the summer on a field assignment for the Ford Foundation. Kenneth Jernigan, director of the Iowa Commission for the Blind, received the Francis Joseph Campbell Citation from the Round Table on Library Service to the Blind, at the 1967 annual conference of the American Library Association. Murray B. Meld of Greenleigh Associates, Inc. will join the academic world in September as associate professor at the School of Social Work, Sacramento State College, California. Robert Morris is president of the American Gerontological Society. Louis H. Rives, Jr. was the recipient of the Departmental Distinguished Service Award, presented to him by John W. Gardner, Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare. Warren Thompson, former director of the California State Department of Rehabilitation, has moved to Denver to take up the position of assistant regional director for the Vocational Rehabilitation Administration, U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

David M. Schneider, former member of COMSTAC Committee on Standards for Financial Accounting and Service Reporting, and former administrator, Bureau of Health Economics, New York State Department of Social Services, has been named a special assistant to the Department's commissioner. Arthur L. Voorhees, former COMSTAC staff associate for the Committee on Standards for Vocational Services, was honored by AAWB as the 1967 recipient of the John H. McAulay Award. The presentation was made by NAC board member Norman M. Yoder.

ENTHUSIASTIC REVIEWS IN PROFESSIONAL JOURNALS

Continuing demand for THE COMSTAC REPORT is attributable at least partially to the favorable reviews which have begun to appear in professional journals. An extensive review by Howard Haycraft, president, H. W. Wilson Company, in the Library Journal for March 1, is headed "Bold Document." It describes the report as "greatly needed, admirably organized and handsomely produced." Noting the recent Congressional enactment of two laws which extend library services for the blind to all physically handicapped persons who cannot for any reason read conventional print, Mr. Haycraft observes: "When fully implemented, the impact of these

laws can be no less than revolutionary. If the COMSTAC library standards were needed and urgent before (and they were), they are trebly so today. The hour is already late, and the time to purchase - and implement - the standards at all levels is now."

Dr. Richard E. Hoover, reviewing the report in the American Journal of Ophthalmology for May, declares: "These are comprehensive standards which will need enthusiastic support and tremendous pride of effort from all sides to be effective. The chapter on Vocational Services (S-7) is especially useful and informative. . . . This report is one many ophthalmologists will want to have as a reference and will be especially valuable to those who are directly or indirectly involved in agency programs and rehabilitation centers for the blind and visually impaired."

Praise and endorsement of the report have not been limited to the printed medium. A resolution of congratulations and commendation for COMSTAC's "excellent work in setting standards" was adopted at the last session of the Administrators Workshop of the American Association of Instructors of the Blind, and communicated to NAC executive director Alexander F. Handel "as a display of appreciation for the work that was well done and will make a major contribution in our field by helping raise standards of service to blind people throughout the nation." A separate resolution of appreciation for Mr. Handel's personal contributions and leadership in the work of improving services for the blind was adopted at the same session.

COMSTAC REPORT NOW AVAILABLE ON TAPE

With over 2,100 copies of THE COMSTAC REPORT: STANDARDS FOR STRENGTHENED SERVICES currently in distribution in four separate versions (library and paperback inkprint editions, a 9-volume braille edition and a 9-disk recorded edition) a fifth edition, in the form of a tape recording, has become available through the initiative of the Sacramento Society for the Blind, which transcribed the report on five 7-inch Mylar tape reels for the convenience of blind readers who prefer this medium.

Dwight M. Toedter, executive director of the Sacramento Society, has informed NAC that, although his agency originally prepared the tape transcription for its own use, it is willing to make copies available at cost to interested buyers. Remittances, at \$16.25 per set, should be sent directly to the Sacramento Society for the Blind, Inc., 1415 - 27th Street, Sacramento, California 95816.

Orders for all other editions should continue to be sent to the National Accreditation Council, 84 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10011. The scale of prices remains: \$6.00 for the library inkprint volume, \$3.00 for the paperback inkprint edition, \$6.00 for the braille edition, and \$10 for the recorded disks.



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No. 3

SPRING 1968

SELF-STUDY GUIDES READY FOR USE

Production of a set of basic tools for use in improvement of all types of services to blind and visually handicapped persons has been completed, and the instruments are available for distribution and use.

With the publication of the 342-page *Self-Study and Evaluation Guide*, which is geared to the programs of the majority of agencies in the field of blindness, and with the simultaneous issuance of two companion volumes, one tailored for use by residential schools and the other devoted to the specific needs of sheltered workshops, the National Accreditation Council has taken a giant step toward its fundamental goal of raising standards of service in the field of blindness.

In his preface to the *Self-Study and Evaluation Guide*, NAC president Arthur L. Brandon describes the volume as "the first solid plank in a bridge from standards of excellence to their implementation."

Referring to the ever-present gap between theory and practice, Dr. Brandon points out that, in the field of blindness, "both the theoretical concepts and the methods of execution have been developed by substantially the same leadership group." He explains:

"For four years, men and women from all parts of the nation pooled their collective wisdom, under the aegis of the Commission on Standards and Accreditation of Services for the Blind (COMSTAC), to formulate standards. During the past year, under the banner of COMSTAC's successor, the National Accreditation Council, they have worked together to evolve the instruments by means of which the standards can be put into operation."

The general *Guide* was prepared by a team of experts with Charles I. Sheldon, assistant executive director of NAC, serving as project coordinator. It consists of 15 sections, 11 of which deal with specific aspects of agency performance for which standards were developed in THE COMSTAC REPORT.

Five of these are areas of administration:

Agency Function and Structure
Financial Accounting and
Service Reporting

Personnel Administration and Volunteer Service
Physical Facilities
Public Relations and Fund-Raising

Six concern specific service programs:

Library Services
Orientation and Mobility Services
Rehabilitation Centers

Sheltered Workshops
Social Services
Vocational Services

The Sheltered Workshops section in the general *Guide* is applicable to workshops which are units of multi-service agencies. A special volume has been published for workshops which operate as independent entities (see page 3).

The one program area in THE COMSTAC REPORT which has been omitted from the general *Guide* is Education. This subject has been covered in a separate document, *Self-Study and Evaluation Guide for Residential Schools* (see page 3).

In all three guides, sections dealing with agency administration and program operations contain standards checklists and evaluation rating scales to enable agencies to denote the degree to which their practices meet accepted standards.

The general *Self-Study and Evaluation Guide* is available in a bound edition at \$6.50. For serviceability and convenience of use, its individual sections may also be purchased separately, in looseleaf form, at prices ranging from 10c to 75c. All prices are at or below actual production costs.

FEDERAL COMMISSIONER PRAISES "PRACTICAL VALUE" OF GUIDES

A preview of the National Accreditation Council's three self-study and evaluation guides has prompted the following comment from Joseph V. Hunt, Commissioner, Rehabilitation Services Administration, United States Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

"Quite apart from the question of accreditation, these guides have direct and practical value for every agency, of whatever size or degree of complexity, which aims to help our nation's blind and visually handicapped citizens. Trail-blazers in the truest sense, the guides illuminate the many avenues which lead to new and improved levels of service—avenues which can be profitably traversed by both the sophisticated, multi-service agency and the most modest of single-service organizations. A new era of excellence is now within our grasp."

Team Effort Produced Document

A statement of acknowledgments by Alexander F. Handel, NAC executive director, in the opening pages of the *Guide* explains that the volume is "the product of a closely integrated team effort" in which "the *esprit de corps* which has always characterized those who command positions of leadership in services to the blind and visually handicapped was once again in evidence."

Mr. Handel identifies the three major sources of manpower mobilized in producing the volume: a small group of technical consultants who assisted with formulation of the evaluation questions, two experienced editors who worked on the writing, planning, design and production elements, and a nationwide panel of 21 specialists who subjected the draft manuscripts to critical review.

A Practical Working Tool

The nature and purpose of the *Guide* is succinctly described in the opening section as "a practical working tool to help agencies assess their strengths and weaknesses and, with the help of such assessments, to plan for improved services in the future."

Although a major aim is to enable agencies to establish their qualifications for accreditation, the *Guide* continues, "the self-study which is at the heart of the process has independent inherent value as an evaluation and planning instrument for the improvement of services. When self-study is undertaken with accreditation as the goal, however, additional depths and dimensions accrue. One is the validation of the agency's own findings by an objective group of professional colleagues during an on-site visit.... Another dimension is the public recognition bestowed by accreditation."

NAC Accreditation Policies Cited

On the subject of qualifications which lead to approval for accreditation, the *Guide* emphasizes three policy positions adopted by the National Accreditation Council:

"Within the framework of the standards adopted by the Council, which constitute the basic guides, an agency is evaluated in the light of its own stated purposes and objectives. Not perfection, but perfectibility, is sought. Deficiencies in a basically sound program of service do not rule out accreditation, provided the agency is willing to remedy deficiencies and gives evidence of ability to do so within a reasonable period. Nor is accreditation denied because an agency may have introduced experimental approaches which deviate from the Council's standards, provided such experiments are part of a valid research design whose results will be measured within a specified time limit."

Another pertinent observation relates to the "grandfather clause" policy adopted by the National Accreditation Council's Board of Directors. Acknowledging that some personnel, "even though lacking in formal academic qualifications, have been working in the field of services for the blind for so long a time that, by virtue of mature judgment and rich experience, they are making a considerable contribution," the policy statement notes that "the continuing participation of such highly experienced persons is not ruled out" but that "qualifications at currently accepted professional levels are to be adopted for present and future development of services."

An order form enclosed with this issue of STANDARD-BEARER lists prices for the complete editions of all three guides, and for the individual sections of the general guide and that for residential schools. Most agencies will find it useful to begin by ordering bound editions of the appropriate volumes so as to gain an overview of the total material. The applicable individual sections, it is anticipated, will be needed by staff and board members once the agency launches into self-study. A 10 percent discount is available on all pre-paid orders of \$5.00 or more. It is requested that orders of less than \$5.00 be prepaid.

NATIONAL ACCREDITATION COUNCIL
for Agencies Serving the Blind and Visually Handicapped, Inc.
84 Fifth Avenue - Suite 501, New York, N.Y. 10011

SELF-STUDY AND EVALUATION GUIDES

1968 Editions

A set of basic tools is available from the National Accreditation Council for use by agencies and schools for the blind in the improvement of services to blind and visually handicapped persons.

With the publication of the 342-page *Self-Study and Evaluation Guide*—along with two companion volumes, one tailored for use by residential schools and the other devoted to the particular needs of sheltered workshops—interested organizations may now avail themselves of assistance in assessing their strengths and weaknesses and in planning for improved services.

The Value of Self-Study

A major aim of these guides is to enable an agency to establish its qualifications for accreditation. However, in the opening section of the *Guide*, it is noted that “the self-study which is at the heart of the process has independent inherent value as an evaluation and planning instrument for the improvement of services. When self-study is undertaken with accreditation as the goal, however, additional depths and dimensions accrue. One is the validation of the agency’s own findings by an objective group of professional colleagues during an on-site visit....Another dimension is the public recognition bestowed by accreditation.”

Based on *THE COMSTAC REPORT: Standards for Strengthened Services*, this *Guide*—according to NAC president Arthur L. Brandon’s observation in the Preface—“represents the first solid plank in a bridge from standards of excellence to their implementation.”

The General Guide

This guide contains comprehensive standards and criteria for evaluation both of common management functions and of specific service programs. Available in a complete bound

edition as well as in 15 separate sections,* it is of interest to agencies operating rehabilitation centers or sheltered workshops, and to agencies providing library services, orientation and mobility services, social services, and vocational services.

The Guide for Residential Schools

Of particular value to residential schools for the blind and visually handicapped is a custom-tailored guide, the *Self-Study and Evaluation Guide for Residential Schools* (420 pages). Adapted from nationally recognized instruments for evaluating elementary and secondary school programs, and embodying appropriate content from *THE COMSTAC REPORT*, it too is available in a complete bound edition as well as in separate sections, of which there are 30, covering all aspects of a school's curriculum and administration.*

The Guide for Sheltered Workshops

The third publication is the *Self-Study and Evaluation Guide for Sheltered Workshops* (180 pages). This guide, available only in a single bound edition, contains all standards for management and operation of a workshop that are found in *THE COMSTAC REPORT*, but in a form convenient for use by a workshop which operates as a separate entity and not as a unit of a multi-service agency.

In order to facilitate ordering the various guides, a price list and order form is attached. All prices are at or below actual production cost. A 10 percent discount is offered for prepaid orders of \$5.00 or more.

*It is suggested that, initially, the complete bound guide be purchased. After a decision is made to carry out a comprehensive self-evaluation leading to accreditation, separate sections may be ordered as required.

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PRICE LIST AND ORDER FORM

	<i>Price per copy</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Amount</i>
I. COMPLETE, BOUND VOLUMES			
<i>Self-Study and Evaluation Guide (the general guide)</i>	\$6.50		\$
<i>Self-Study and Evaluation Guide for Residential Schools . . .</i>	\$6.50		
<i>Self-Study and Evaluation Guide for Sheltered Workshops . .</i>	\$3.50		
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RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL GUIDE A "FIRST" IN FIELD OF SPECIAL EDUCATION

A "first" in the field of special education, NAC's *Self-Study and Evaluation Guide for Residential Schools* to be published May 1 will provide educational institutions for blind and visually handicapped students with a customized instrument for self-improvement.

The 420-page document amalgamates the Standards for Education in THE COMSTAC REPORT with a large body of related material drawn from widely accepted authoritative sources.

The basis for the overall format, and for much of the content of the residential school *Guide*, was "Evaluative Criteria," 1960 Edition, published by the National Study of Secondary School Evaluation, which gave permission for both use and modification of its material. Similar permission was granted by the Catholic University of America Press for utilization of materials from "Criteria for Evaluation of Catholic Elementary Schools," 1965, developed by the National Catholic Education Association.

The residential school *Guide* also incorporates new content based on the best thinking in the field of the education of the blind and visually handicapped. It was developed by NAC's Advisory Committee for Accreditation of Educational Services, chaired by Jack W. Birch, associate dean, School of Education, University of Pittsburgh.

Serving as principal consultant to the committee was Dr. Geraldine T. Scholl, associate professor of special education, University of Michigan, who synthesized the source documents in the light of her professional knowledge of sound educational programs for blind and visually handicapped children and youth. Huesten Collingwood, staff associate of NAC, carried major responsibility for coordinating the project and for much of the basic editorial work. Significant technical assistance was lent by Bill L. Underwood, specialist in education, American Foundation for the Blind.

The *Self-Study and Evaluation Guide for Residential Schools* will be available in complete bound edition form at \$6.50. Its 30 individual sections may be separately purchased in looseleaf form at prices ranging from 10c to 75c, as shown in the Price List and Order Form enclosed with this issue.

SHELTERED WORKSHOP GUIDE A JOINT ENTERPRISE

The special requirements encountered in self-study and evaluation of sheltered workshops which operate as independent entities and not as units of multi-service agencies are encompassed in the *Self-Study and Evaluation Guide for Sheltered Workshops*, a comprehensive document developed by the National Accreditation Council in response to the joint request of the General Council of Workshops for the Blind and the National Industries for the Blind. This *Guide* incorporates from THE COMSTAC REPORT all standards for administration which are applicable to sheltered workshops and combines these with COMSTAC's specific service standards for workshop operations.

In the formulation of this document, as in the development of the COMSTAC "Standards for Sheltered Workshops," the Standards Committee of the General Council of Workshops for the Blind, under the competent leadership of J. Arthur Johnson worked closely with NAC in the preparation of this *Guide*. Miss Helen Cashriel, who recently retired as supervisor of workshops for The Jewish Guild for the Blind in New York City, and who has served as a member of the General Council's Standards Committee since its inception, reviewed the final manuscript of this *Guide* on behalf of the General Council. Facilitating, supporting and stimulating the work of all concerned was Robert C. Goodpasture, executive vice president of National Industries for the Blind which underwrote part of the publishing costs.

The 180-page workshop *Guide*, available only in complete bound form at \$3.50, may be procured by means of the enclosed Price List and Order Form.

INSTITUTES TRAIN LEADERS FOR ON-SITE REVIEW VISITS

The first of two training institutes to prepare a leadership cadre for members of the visiting teams who will conduct NAC's on-site accreditation reviews was held in New York last month. A second, for West Coast leaders, will take place in San Francisco March 1-2.

Thirty-two persons, selected from the roster of over 400 who have indicated willingness to serve on visiting review teams, participated in the New York sessions, at which two prominent educators with long experience in accreditation procedures, and particularly in the training of personnel for service on review teams, served as co-leaders. They were Dr. Gordon Cawelti of Chicago, executive secretary of the North Central Association's Commission on Secondary Schools, and Dr. Warren M. Davis of Springfield, N. J.,

superintendent of schools, Union County Regional High Schools, and secretary of the Board of Trustees of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. Dr. Cawelti and Dr. Davis will also lead the West Coast institute.

Incorporated in the institute program were orientation sessions to familiarize participants with the structure and content of NAC's general *Self-Study and Evaluation Guide*, with the sequential steps leading to accreditation, and with the techniques of observation, analysis, evaluation and reporting.

A keynote presentation on "The Meaning and Purposes of Accreditation" was made by Ewald B. Nyquist, chairman of NAC's Commission on Accreditation, at the institute's opening session.

Expounds Accreditation Philosophy

"The best accrediting agency tries to work, not by mandate nor by compulsion, but by pointing to a better way," said Mr. Nyquist, who is New York State deputy commissioner of education. The Commission on Accreditation takes the position, he said, that "its primary obligation is toward society and to the individual rather than toward what will become its institutional membership."

The concern of the Commission, Mr. Nyquist declared, is "not to restrict the accredited list but to enlarge it by doing everything possible to aid agencies for the blind to become worthy of inclusion in it."

"The real significance of accreditation," Mr. Nyquist asserted, "is its power to stimulate, organize and give objectivity to the kind of self-criticism and constructive planning which lead to better understanding, broader vision, more informed policy and sounder services."

As to the role of the Commission on Accreditation in arriving at final decisions, the Chairman declared:

"The accreditation judgment should always be made by mature, experienced colleagues, by comparing what they find in an evaluation report with the sense of a basic set of criteria or standards. Accreditation is or is not granted depending on whether these experienced colleagues find that the agency, on balance, compares favorably with those criteria, not by painful, detailed, point-by-point, comparative analysis, but rather by making judgments on the appropriateness and effectiveness of whole areas of operation."

COMMISSION ON STANDARDS LAUNCHES PROGRAM

With the appointment of a Commission on Standards, both of the major program arms designated in the organizational structure of the National Accreditation Council are now in operation.

Professor Benjamin F. Boyer of the Temple University School of Law has been named chairman of the eight-member commission, which is charged with the dual responsibility of updating standards incorporated in THE COMSTAC REPORT and of developing comparable sets of standards in areas not previously encompassed.

Two priority areas in which standards are needed were agreed upon at the Commission's first meeting. Selected for development as soon as feasible were: *Standards for Communication Materials* and *Standards for Business Enterprise Services*.

Exercise of the Standards Commission's other function will be closely related to the findings of the Council's other program arm, the Commission on Accreditation, in the course of its practical experience with agencies conducting self-studies in preparation for accreditation.

Agencies Asked for Suggestions

An invitation to such agencies to offer suggestions for revisions and extensions of existing standards is made by NAC president Arthur L. Brandon in his preface to the *Self-Study and Evaluation Guide*.

Observing that "the COMSTAC standards, which constitute the core of this *Guide*, grew out of the experience and knowledge of hundreds of lay and professional persons engaged in services for the blind," Dr. Brandon writes:

"Out of the specific application of these standards by agencies engaged in self-study will grow a new body of experience, which will in turn lead to further refinements of the standards, to newer concepts of service, and to identification of additional areas in which standards need to be developed."

J. Max Woolly, superintendent, Arkansas School for the Blind, has been appointed vice-chairman of the Commission on Standards. The other members are: Rev. Thomas J. Carroll, executive director, Catholic Guild for All the Blind, Newton, Mass.; Owen R. Davison, executive director, Health and Welfare Council, Philadelphia; Harry E. Hayes, director, Services for the Blind, Kansas Department of Social Welfare; Norman V. Lourie, executive deputy secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare; William O. McGill, executive director, Chicago Lighthouse for the Blind; Miss M. Anne McGuire, consultant in social administration, Waynesville, North Carolina.



the standard-bearer

NATIONAL ACCREDITATION COUNCIL

*For Agencies Serving the Blind
and Visually Handicapped*

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No. 4

Fall, 1968

AGENCIES PUSH TOWARD ACCREDITATION

The race is on for charter membership in the National Accreditation Council. Agencies serving the blind and visually handicapped in all parts of the country are vying for the distinction of being among the first to be accredited and thus be eligible for Council membership. One executive, whose agency is well advanced in its accreditation self-study, expressed its goal in colorful terms: "In years to come, we want to be able to say we were passengers on the Mayflower of accreditation in the field of service to the blind."

While some of the pioneering accredittees will be those who began the self-study process soon after THE COMSTAC REPORT appeared and well before issuance of NAC's Self-Study and Evaluation Guides, other agencies are making up for a later start, through intensive drives to complete self-studies in the shortest possible time. Depending on the complexity of an agency's operations and on its ability to involve staff and board in a concentrated effort, a self-study may take from three to twelve months.

By the end of October, three "early bird" agencies will have their on-site reviews completed. An on-site review is a visit by a team of professionally qualified persons for the purpose of validating the agency's self-study findings.

Approximately 40 agencies currently have self-studies under way, and additional numbers are preparing to begin, judging from quantity orders received for sections of the Self-Study and Evaluation Guides. In line with the Council's stated policy, the names of agencies applying for accreditation are not made public. The applicants themselves, however, are free to reveal that they are working toward accreditation, and a number have done so. Among those who have made public announcements to this effect are the Pittsburgh Association for the Blind and Arkansas Enterprises for the Blind.

One agency has gone even further. At a session of the recently held convention of the American Association of Workers for the Blind, Cleo B. Dolan, executive director of the Cleveland Society for the Blind, presented a detailed description of his agency's self-study experience. In a candid appraisal which balanced problems encountered with advantages gained, Mr. Dolan said: "Our first impression was that the self-evaluation was nearly an impossible task, but after the 'initial shock' it proved not to be as difficult as it first appeared."

A board member's view of the same experience has been voiced by Scott Mueller, president of the Cleveland Society. "There is no longer any doubt in our minds as to the true meaning and great values of the accreditation process," Mr. Mueller has informed NAC. "Actually, the work involved in preparation for accreditation turns out to be perhaps the most valuable part of the whole undertaking. We discovered all over again what every school-child knows: learning does not take place through an examination, but through the homework you do to prepare for the exam."

A concise description of the accreditation process is contained in a new booklet, "The Why/What/How of Accreditation." Copies may be had free of charge.

SCHOOLS USING AND EVALUATING SELF-STUDY GUIDE

With the opening of the present school term, five schools for the blind in as many states began putting into practice NAC's Self-Study and Evaluation Guide for Residential Schools.

In addition to completing their individual self-studies during the current school year, Arkansas School for the Blind, Maryland School for the Blind, Ohio State School for the Blind, Oregon State School for the Blind and Perkins School for the Blind have agreed to participate in an evaluation of the Guide itself. All staff and faculty members who take part in the schools' self-studies will complete questionnaires designed to elicit their reactions to the use of the Guide and their suggestions for possible modifications to be incorporated into future editions. This study is being supported by a grant from the Office of Education, U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

MEMBERSHIP AND CONTRIBUTOR CATEGORIES EXPLAINED

To encourage participation in its work by organizations, associations and agencies that are not subject to accreditation, yet are concerned about services to the blind, the National Accreditation Council has established several categories of associate membership.

Provision has also been made for interested individuals to lend their support to the Council through tax-deductible gifts. Agency board and staff members, volunteers, clients and others may become Sponsoring Contributors by donating \$100 per year, Supporting Contributors by donating \$50, or Contributors by donating \$25 annually.

A new leaflet, "Membership in the National Accreditation Council," outlines the various categories of members and contributors. A copy of the leaflet is enclosed; additional copies will be supplied on request.

ACCREDITATION CLINIC AT AEVH WORKSHOP

Accreditation will be the subject of a session of the Administrators Workshop being conducted by the Association for Education of the Visually Handicapped (formerly the American Association of Instructors of the Blind) at Louisville, Kentucky, October 30.

Entitled "Problems Clinic for Schools Interested in Accreditation," the session will feature a discussion of self-study procedures, using the Council's Self-Study and Evaluation Guide for Residential Schools.

Serving as clinic leader will be Dr. William T. Bean, who has had extensive experience in conducting clinics of this type on behalf of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. Dean Jack W. Birch, School of Education, University of Pittsburgh, will act as resource person. Dr. Birch is chairman of NAC's Advisory Committee on the Accreditation of Educational Services.

SELF-STUDY GUIDES MEET WIDESPREAD ACCEPTANCE

NAC's Self-Study and Evaluation Guide and its two specialized companion volumes, one for residential schools and the other for sheltered workshops, have received an enthusiastic reception from leaders in work for the blind, have been warmly reviewed in professional journals, and have met with a surprising variety of uses in collateral areas.

Accountants are purchasing the financial accounting and service reporting section of the guides. Universities are using various sections in training programs for administrative personnel. Officials of the American National Red Cross have called the standards for volunteer service incorporated in the guides "the bible" for development of volunteer participation in their own chapters and elsewhere.

Reviewing the guides in Rehabilitation Literature, Earl C. Graham, editor, expressed the opinion that, in addition to their role as working documents for agencies serving the blind, they also have "general interest and practical application in the broad fields of rehabilitation and social welfare."

Owen R. Davison, executive director, Health and Welfare Council of Greater Philadelphia, has hailed the Self-Study and Evaluation Guide as "a most impressive document and one which should be an enormously useful tool in the period ahead."

George H. Park, executive director, Maryland Workshop for the Blind, commented "It is obvious that the Self-Study and Evaluation Guide for Sheltered Workshops, when applied, will have a positive impact on strengthening workshop programs."

NAC BOARD GAINS FIVE NEW MEMBERS

Mrs. Edwin D. Campbell, a former president, now secretary of the Massachusetts Association for the Blind, in Boston. She served as chairman of the Committee on Standards for Social Services of the Council's predecessor, COMSTAC. An active leader in professional and civic activities, Mrs. Campbell is a member of the Rehabilitation Council of United Community Services of Metropolitan Boston; a member of the Board of the Mental Health Association, Central Middlesex, Mass.; and area chairman of the Associate Council, DeCordova Museum, Lincoln, Mass.

Robert C. Goodpasture, executive vice president of National Industries for the Blind. He joined NIB in 1960 after serving for 12 years as an engineering consultant with three prominent New York firms, having previously been a teacher of engineering at Yale University. Mr. Goodpasture is a former president of the Yale Engineering Society and is a member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. He was a member of the COMSTAC Committee on Standards for Sheltered Workshops and now serves on the Council's Commission on Accreditation.

Douglas C. MacFarland, Ph.D., chief of the Division of Services to the Blind in the Rehabilitation Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. He is a past president of the American Association of Workers for the Blind. Dr. MacFarland was a member of the COMSTAC Committee on Standards for Vocational Services and now serves on the Council's Commission on Accreditation. He is chairman of the Committee on Industrial and Rural Employment of the World Council for the Welfare of the Blind.

Hon. Reese H. Robrahn, Judge of the Shawnee County Magistrate Court, Topeka, Kansas. Judge Robrahn is president of the American Council of the Blind, and has also served as president of the Kansas Association for the Blind, chairman of the Legislative Committee of the Kansas Rehabilitation Association and president of the Topeka Sunflower Alliance, an affiliate of Lions International. He received the 1964 award of the Kansas Governor's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped.

Raymond C. Wieboldt, Jr., president of the general contracting firm, R. C. Wieboldt Co., Evanston, Ill. President of the Illinois Children's Home and Aid Society, he is also president of the Wieboldt Foundation and a past president of the Chicago Lighthouse for the Blind. Mr. Wieboldt is on the Board of Directors of Welfare Council of Metropolitan Chicago and an associate of the National College of Education. He holds a citation from the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped.



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No. 5

Winter, 1969

THREE AGENCIES FIRST IN ACCREDITATION

The drive to be first in achieving accreditation for services to the blind resulted in a three-way tie when, at the winter meeting of the National Accreditation Council's Board of Directors, accredited charter membership was awarded to the Cleveland Society for the Blind, Ohio, the Massachusetts Association for the Blind, Boston, and the Rhode Island Association for the Blind, Providence.

There are 53 agencies throughout the nation now actively engaged in self-study. Dr. Ewald B. Nyquist, chairman of the Commission on Accreditation, was unable to estimate how many of the 21 formal applications for accreditation now before his Commission would be ready for action when it next meets, in April, but expressed confidence that the pace would thenceforward be one of steady acceleration.

The Cleveland, Massachusetts and Rhode Island agencies are now authorized to display NAC's seal of accreditation on their premises, on their stationery, in their printed reports, leaflets and all other public relations and fund-raising media.

The Cleveland and Boston agencies are members of their local united funds. Lyman S. Ford, executive director of United Community Funds and Councils of America, has this to say about the importance of accreditation to such funds:

"At a time of unprecedented competition for the contributed dollar, thoughtful evaluation of voluntary agency services is imperative. This is a major concern of United Way organizations throughout the United States. The accreditation of community agencies by national accrediting mechanisms is of value to United Funds and Health and Welfare Councils in conducting evaluative reviews of community programs.

"...the National Accreditation Council is rendering an important service to these agencies, their clients and the communities which support them."

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE BEGINS STUDY ON STANDARDS FOR READING MATERIALS

The rapid proliferation of reading materials in braille or other tactile form, in recorded form on disks and tapes and in large-type format has added an element of urgency to the long standing need for standards to improve the production of all forms of reading materials for blind and visually handicapped readers, young and old.

It is this consideration which has prompted NAC's Commission on Standards to assign high priority to the development of standards for the production of reading materials, according to Commission chairman Benjamin F. Boyer. Leading organizations engaged in the production, distribution, purchase and use of these materials have indicated to NAC that they are eager for standards and guidelines. Among their concerns are the selection of materials to be reproduced, the challenge to keep up with technological changes in production methods and the need to prevent wasteful duplication of titles by means of more efficient bibliographic listing.

A 10-member technical committee, chaired by the Rev. Thomas J. Carroll, executive director, Catholic Guild for All the Blind, Newton, Mass., has accepted the reading materials assignment. With the help of a special consultant, Professor Ray Trautman of the Columbia University School of Library Service, the committee has outlined an 18-month program calling for study, field exploration and consultation with a variety of experts prior to drafting a set of standards. The draft will then go through the same process as that used in creating NAC's existing standards: intensive review by a large group of knowledgeable persons, followed by a national conference at which leaders in the field will subject the standards to final scrutiny before recommending their adoption by the Commission on Standards.

Among the guidelines evolved by the committee at its initial meeting in December were 1) that the standards to be formulated would supplement but not duplicate NAC's existing standards for library services, and 2) that particular attention would be paid to provisions for change as technological improvements are perfected.

In addition to Father Carroll, the committee members are: Robert S. Bray, chief, Division for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Library of Congress; Leslie Clark, director, International Research Information Service, American Foundation for the Blind, New York; Arthur Helms, production manager, Talking Book Division, AFB; Miss Marjorie Hooper, editor, American Printing House for the Blind, Louisville, Ky.; Keith Jennison, vice-president, Keith Jennison Books, Inc., New York; Bernard M. Krebs, librarian, The Jewish Guild for the Blind, New York; Dr. Berthold Lowenfeld, Berkeley, Calif., chairman, Advisory Council to the Braille Authority; Professor Robert W. Mann, chairman, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; and Don Staley, executive director, Recording for the Blind, New York.

UNIFORM COST ACCOUNTING SYSTEMS ENDORSED BY NAC ADVISORY GROUP

The initiative taken by National Industries for the Blind in formulating procedures for uniform computing of overhead costs by sheltered workshops, and the current project of Goodwill Industries of America in developing a standard cost accounting system for local agencies, both represent commendable achievements. This was one of the major conclusions reached by a special advisory committee appointed by NAC's Commission on Standards to consider the relationship of these specialized costing procedures to NAC's existing standards for accounting.

Headed by Owen R. Davison, executive director, Health and Welfare Council of Philadelphia, the advisory committee was made up of specialists in public accounting and workshop administration: Ronald C. Auld, workshop manager, Chicago Lighthouse for the Blind; Robert N. Galloway, C.P.A., director of accounting and business administration, Goodwill Industries of America, Washington, D.C.; Robert Hampton, III, C.P.A., S. D. Leidesdorf & Co., New York; J. Arthur Johnson, executive director, Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind, Washington, D.C.; Jack R. Jones, project manager, National Industries for the Blind, New York; Carl E. Olsen, C.P.A., Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Co., New York.

Although there are technical differences between the NIB procedures and those developed by the Goodwill project, both systems are soundly based management tools which are quite compatible with NAC's basic accounting standards, the advisory committee decided. It recommended that workshops be encouraged to use either method, and that continued effort be exerted to find uniform ways of determining costs so as to make possible valid comparisons of workshop operations.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP ROSTER BUILDS

Four national agencies have recently enrolled as Sponsoring Members of NAC, and a state organization has signed up as an Affiliate Member. Sponsoring and Affiliate membership are among the categories of membership open to organizations that do not provide services for which standards have been adopted.

The new Sponsoring Members are: National Society for the Prevention of Blindness, American Association of Workers for the Blind, Association for Education of the Visually Handicapped and American Foundation for the Blind. The Sponsoring category is available to national organizations engaged in promoting standards in education, health, library service, rehabilitation and social service.

The New York State Federation of Workers for the Blind has taken out Affiliate membership, which is open to local, state and regional associations.

AGENCIES OFFER TO SHARE JOB DESCRIPTIONS

The Cleveland Society for the Blind has produced a 175-page manual detailing descriptions of qualifications for 130 job titles, from camp cook to executive director. For copies of the manual, write to Cleo B. Dolan, executive director, 1909 East 101st Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44106.

A firm of management consultants made a similar study covering all levels of professional, technical, clerical and service personnel for the Cincinnati Association for the Blind. Milton Jahoda, executive director, will make the appropriate sections of this material available to kindred agencies if they will list the particular job titles in which they are interested. Address requests to him at 2045 Gilbert Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202.

REPORTING SYSTEM CHECKLIST INCLUDES ACCREDITATION

The question of whether a rehabilitation agency or workshop is accredited is one of the significant items to be checked off in the Annual Operational Report which is a key element in a voluntary reporting system being initiated by the federal Rehabilitation Services Administration.

The model reporting system is designed to bridge a long existing information gap by producing dependable statistics to serve as the basis for local, regional and national planning of rehabilitation services. All rehabilitation agencies and workshops are invited to participate in the voluntary reporting system, which involves 1) quarterly filing of Case Service Reports detailing the characteristics of clients, the types and costs of services rendered to them, and 2) filing of an Annual Report on the agency's physical plant, accreditations, staff, services and finances. Samples of the report forms appear in a 42-page publication, "Reciprocal Rehabilitation Reporting for Rehabilitation Centers and Workshops," available from the Rehabilitation Services Administration, HEW, Washington, D.C. 20201.

NEW SAFETY MANUAL AVAILABLE

To insure optimum protection for handicapped persons served in rehabilitation facilities and sheltered workshops, a detailed handbook and checklist, "Safety Manual for Rehabilitation Facilities," has just been issued by the Rehabilitation Services Administration. Reflecting the principles of accident prevention practiced by industry, and the recommendations of safety consultants who have made studies of conditions in sheltered workshops, the manual is an aid in maintaining a hazard-free working environment and in developing safety habits among workers. Copies are available on request to Willman A. Massie, executive secretary, National Policy and Performance Council, Rehabilitation Services Administration, HEW, Washington, D.C. 20201.

Mrs. Sauser

PC



the standard-bearer

NATIONAL ACCREDITATION COUNCIL

For Agencies Serving the Blind
and Visually Handicapped

84 Fifth Avenue • New York, N. Y. 10011 • (212) 691-3232

No. 6

Spring-Summer, 1969

MORE "FIRSTS" IN ACCREDITATION

The first schools to be accredited -- and the first state agency -- were approved at the June 19 meeting of the Commission on Accreditation.

Accreditation of the schools was a special occasion for still another reason: the four educational institutions had participated in the NAC-U. S. Office of Education project on evaluation of NAC's Self-Study and Evaluation Guide for Residential Schools. The schools have not only achieved accreditation but have made analyses and suggestions that will benefit others seeking accreditation in the future.

The newly accredited institutions are:

Arkansas School for the Blind, Maryland School for the Blind, Ohio State School for the Blind, Oregon State School for the Blind.

Plus the state agency: the Virginia Commission for the Visually Handicapped.

All are now eligible to use the NAC symbol and the designation, Accredited Member National Accreditation Council, on stationery, publications, postage meters and public statements of all types.

Congratulations and welcome as Accredited Members of NAC!

DIVIDENDS OF PAST ACCREDITATION

Representative Robert O. Tiernan of Rhode Island hailed the accreditation of the Rhode Island Association for the Blind in an article in The Congressional Record. Community, published by United Community Funds and Councils of America, carried in its March-April, 1969, issue an article by Scott Mueller, president of the Cleveland Society for the Blind, on the values of the entire accreditation process. Community goes to united funds and citizen leaders throughout the country.

If you have not received the reprint of Mr. Mueller's article, sent you recently, or if you wish additional copies, write NAC now while more copies are available.

ACCREDITATION AND THE U. S. OFFICE OF EDUCATION

As we accredit four outstanding schools, it seems timely to quote this policy statement of the U. S. Office of Education printed in the November 22, 1968, issue of Higher Education and National Affairs published by the American Council on Education:

"One of the distinctive features of American education is that the development and maintenance of educational standards is the responsibility of non-governmental, voluntary accrediting associations. The Office of Education is cognizant of the invaluable contribution which the voluntary accrediting associations have made to the development of educational quality in the Nation. It is the policy of the Office of Education generally to support and encourage the various recognized voluntary accrediting associations in their respective activities, and to endorse their role as the primary agents in the development and maintenance of educational standards in the United States."

CLEAR AHEAD

The Cleveland Society for the Blind received a great response when the Standard-Bearer announced the availability of the Society's new Job Description and Salary Range Manual. Cleo B. Dolan, executive director, reported however, "we have received as many as four requests from staff of the same agencies."

Please clear -- and NAC will try to do a better job of letting you know whether supplies of offered materials are available only on a one-to-an agency basis.

ANNUAL MEETING TO MOVE AROUND U. S.

At the urging of all participants in this year's annual meeting, NAC will select sites in various parts of the country for future annual meetings. Thus each year more people will have a chance to hear first-hand the story of accreditation. Questions will be answered on the spot by those who have been through the process.

Site of the 1970 annual meeting will be announced in the fall.

CORRECTION

Standard-Bearer regrets that a line was dropped from its article on uniform accounting systems in the Winter, 1969, issue. Carl E. Olsen was incorrectly identified as a certified public accountant and the name of the real accountant didn't appear. Mr. Olsen is director of industries, New York Association for the Blind. The missing C.P.A. is Daniel D. Robinson, now NAC Board member and Assistant Treasurer.

HELP IS ON THE WAY!

"We want to work toward accreditation. How do we set up that self-study committee?"

"Our self-study showed us that we need to strengthen recreation services before making formal application for accreditation. Can you advise us?"

To questions such as these, coming from agencies all over the country, NAC can now reply more encouragingly.

Two great national agencies -- the American Foundation for the Blind and National Industries for the Blind -- have offered to make their staff available for consultation to help agencies achieve accreditation.

M. Robert Barnett, executive director of AFB, said in offering general consultation: "AFB has supported the work of the National Accreditation Council from the beginning because we want to help improve services for the blind and we want agencies for the blind to receive adequate community understanding and support. The sooner all agencies earn accreditation, the better it will be for the blind citizens of this country. We welcome and will try to meet all requests for consultation from agencies seeking accreditation. Requests addressed to our headquarters, 15 West 16 Street, New York, N.Y. 10011, will be referred to the field office nearest you."

Robert C. Goodpasture, executive vice president of NIB, pointed out: "Workshops for the blind have special needs and special problems as they approach accreditation. That is why National Industries for the Blind assisted in the production of NAC's Self-Study and Evaluation Guide for Sheltered Workshops and why we are continuing to cooperate in every way possible to help our associated shops become accredited. Members of our staff are available to help agencies that feel a need for advice and guidance in the workshop area -- subject, of course, to availability of time. Write to me at NIB, 50 West 44 Street, New York, N.Y. 10028 and we'll try to help."

In addition, NAC will continue to provide consultation through correspondence, by telephone, and, to a limited extent, in person.

FROM OLDEN DAYS TO GOLDEN FUTURE

"The time is here when Foundations and Federal and State agencies will increasingly expect that rehabilitation facilities prove through earning accreditation that their staffs, facilities and programs meet accepted standards." ...J. Arthur Johnson, executive director, Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind (Washington, D.C.) speaking to the National Institute on Standards and Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities, January, 1969.

NAC 1969 ANNUAL MEETING, DALLAS, TEXAS

For the first time, as provided in the by-laws, representatives of Accredited Members were present at NAC's annual meeting on April 18, participating in the voting for board members and all other business. All three of these agencies -- the Cleveland Society for the Blind, the Massachusetts Association for the Blind, and the Rhode Island Association for the Blind -- had delegations on hand.

Also a first -- representatives of eight of the (then) 12 Associate Members were present to participate without voting. Since then, two new agencies have joined as Supporting Associates.

Sponsoring or Affiliate Associates are: American Association of Workers for the Blind, American Council of the Blind, American Foundation for the Blind, American Foundation for the Overseas Blind, Association for the Education of the Visually Handicapped, National Braille Association, National Braille Press, National Industries for the Blind, National Society for the Prevention of Blindness, New York Federation of Workers for the Blind, Recording for the Blind, Volunteer Service for the Blind. Supporting Associates are The Foote System and Nationwide Foundation.

NEW OFFICERS

J. Kenneth Cozier, Cleveland, Ohio, was elected Treasurer and Daniel D. Robinson, Madison, New Jersey, was elected Assistant Treasurer at the annual meeting. All other officers were reelected.

Mr. Cozier, president of Cozier Corporation and a member of NAC's board since its inception, succeeded Ira A. Schur of New York, who retired from the Board. The position of Assistant Treasurer is a new one. Mr. Robinson served on the COMSTAC Committee on Standards for Financial Accounting and Service Reporting. He is a partner in the New York office of Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Co., Certified Public Accountants.

NAC BOARD MEMBERS HONORED

In the past year we were proud to note that:

John W. Ferree received the Beverly Myers Achievement Award of the American Board of Opticianry and its Educational Foundation of Ophthalmic Optics for "a major contribution to vision through opticianry."

Kenneth Jernigan was cited in HEW's Rehabilitation Record for his achievement in bringing the library of the Iowa Commission for the Blind "from nothing at all in 1960 to the largest library for the blind in the world."

Norman V. Lourie served on the Pre-Conference Working Party for the XIVth International Conference on Social Welfare and, pursuant to that, was guest editorial writer for the fall, 1968, Conference Bulletin of the National Conference on Social Welfare.



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NATIONAL ACCREDITATION COUNCIL

*For Agencies Serving the Blind
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No. 7

Fall, 1969

NAC LEADERS HONORED

Arthur L. Brandon, president of the National Accreditation Council, received the Migel Medal of the American Foundation for the Blind on AFB Founder's Day, October 23, 1969. Presenting the medal at AFB headquarters, Frederick G. Storey said: "I had a personal knowledge of the need of standards in the field of the blind and I have seen under Dr. Brandon's leadership these standards become a reality and be made available to all who wish to use them."

In Mr. Brandon's acceptance speech he predicted: "Economic and social factors and the insistence of our people on quality service will make it essential for all types of agencies to meet some form of accreditation in the years ahead."

Douglas MacFarland, NAC board member, who is chief, Division of Services for the Blind of HEW, became president of the American Association of Workers for the Blind at its 43rd annual convention in Chicago, July 23, 1969.

Louis H. Rives, Jr., also an NAC board member and assistant director, Operations Division for State Agency Compliance, Office for Civil Rights, HEW, received the Ambrose M. Shotwell Distinguished Service Award at the AAWB convention. Presenting the award on behalf of AAWB was Miss Mary E. Switzer, administrator, Social and Rehabilitation Services, HEW.

Richard E. Hoover, M. D., Baltimore ophthalmologist and NAC board member, was honored at the same AAWB meeting. He received the Lawrence E. Blaha Award for his outstanding work in the field of mobility.

Peter J. Salmon has been named director of a new National Center for Deaf-Blind Youths. At present housed in The Industrial Home for the Blind, Brooklyn, New York, the center will be operated by IHB and will eventually have its own building. Dr. Salmon is administrative vice president of IHB and serves as a vice-president of NAC.

Byron M. Smith received the R. B. Irwin Award of National Industries for the Blind for his outstanding service in work for the blind at the annual meeting of NIB in Jackson, Mississippi, on October 8th. The award was presented by NAC board member and NIB executive vice president, Robert C. Goodpasture. Mr. Smith has most recently helped to improve services for the blind by acting as member of two NAC on-site review teams and chairman of one.

Joseph Kohn, member of NAC's Commission on Accreditation, became president of the National Council of State Agencies for the Blind on November 4th. He is executive director, New Jersey Commission for the Blind. In his new office he succeeds William T. Coppage, executive director of the first state agency to be accredited by NAC, the Virginia Commission for the Visually Handicapped.

It is, of course, not accidental that all those who have been honored are leaders in NAC. They are all deeply concerned with NAC's basic objective -- to improve services for blind and visually handicapped people.

WELCOME NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBERS!

NAC is happy to announce that the American Optometric Association and the American Printing House for the Blind have become sponsoring associates, and that the Delta Gamma Foundation has become a supporting associate since the last issue of the Standard-Bearer.

REVISED DESIGN OF NAC SEAL

When the Cleveland Society for the Blind was accredited by NAC it proudly began to use the NAC seal on its letterhead, in its publications and in other ways. But there was one snag. The lettering "Accredited Member - National Accreditation Council" was extended too far on each side of the central design. The seal didn't fit attractively into the layout of most pages.

Nothing daunted, the Society redesigned the lettering so it fitted gracefully around the central design, and submitted the new design to NAC. Decision: it's much better than the old one.

Thank you, Cleo Dolan, and the Cleveland Society!

ANOTHER FIRST FOR NAC STANDARDS

For the first time, a state (Oklahoma) law has specified that the Library standards of the National Accreditation Council "shall be observed and followed" in providing the state's library services for the blind.

With deep regret the National Accreditation Council reports the death of its board member Thomas E. Caulfield, Jr., M. D. on October 8, 1969.

At his death Dr. Caulfield was chief of the Department of Psychiatry at The Catholic Guild for All the Blind, Newton, Mass.

Dr. Caulfield served as a member of the Council's predecessor, the Commission on Standards and Accreditation of Services for the Blind (COMSTAC). In particular, he gave leadership in developing standards for rehabilitation centers.

His untimely passing is a tragic loss not only to his family, the Guild and NAC but to the entire field of service to the blind.

Strongly supporting this piece of legislation was the Oklahoma Federation of the Blind, which is affiliated with the American Council of the Blind.

The NAC Standards for Library Services have been endorsed and adopted by the American Library Association. They must be met by all libraries qualifying for NAC accreditation.

Robert S. Bray, chief, Division for the Blind and Visually Handicapped, The Library of Congress, said recently in the Encyclopedia of Library and Information Science:

"By providing guidelines to libraries of every type and pointing up the responsibilities of all levels of government, these standards will help in making it possible for eligible persons to receive library service which is really comparable to that which is now enjoyed by the general public."

NAC ADDS NEW SECTION TO SCHOOL GUIDE

The testing of the Self-Study and Evaluation Guide for Residential Schools has been completed under the direction of Dr. Geraldine T. Scholl, NAC board member and professor, School of Education, University of Michigan. The report of the research project and its results has been submitted to the U. S. Office of Education which provided a grant to make the project possible.

The results reveal that the five participating schools found the Guide satisfactory and effective in enabling them to conduct useful self-studies. However, suggestions for additional clarification of the Guide's Manual of Procedures and for a new, general purpose section of the Guide were received. The two proposed additions have been prepared and are now available. They will be automatically included in all copies of the complete Guide. The new general purpose Section D-20, Other Course or Program may also be ordered separately in the same way as other individual sections of the Guide. Price: 50¢.

Copies of the full report of the project are available from NAC for a 50¢ handling charge.

Schools participating in the project were: Arkansas School for the Blind, The Maryland School for the Blind, Ohio State School for the Blind, Oregon State School for the Blind and Perkins School for the Blind.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

The 1970 annual meeting of NAC will be held on April 24, 1970, at the Pick-Congress Hotel, Chicago.

The meeting is planned to be of interest to board and commission members and other volunteers as well as to staff.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON STANDARDS FOR PRODUCTION OF READING MATERIALS

Subcommittees of the special committee to develop standards for production of reading materials - tactile, recorded and large-type - are now preparing their respective draft standards. The standards will be reviewed at a national conference at the Pick-Congress Hotel, Chicago, April 23 and 24, 1970. This conference will immediately precede the NAC annual meeting and all conferees will be cordially invited to remain for the meeting.

The Reverend Thomas J. Carroll is project chairman and Professor Ray Trautman of the Columbia University School of Library Science is project director.

NEW FACT SHEET

Would you like to have a one-page statement of the need for improved services for the blind and how accreditation can help bring about that improvement? Just write Editor, the Standard-Bearer and ask for NAC's new Fact Sheet. Copies free upon request as long as they last.

NEED HELP?

If your agency would like to improve its recreation services in order to qualify for accreditation, help can be as close as your mailbox. Write David Park, Consulting Service on Recreation for the Ill and Handicapped, National Recreation and Park Association, 1700 Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W., Washington, D. C. 20006. Mr. Park has assured NAC that his staff will be glad to be of any possible assistance.

If you feel the need for guidance in improving your public relations and fund-raising, write Editor, the Standard-Bearer. Most local chapters of the Public Relations Society of America (a firm believe in accreditation!) have public service committees. When we hear from you, we'll try to put you in touch with the nearest available PRSA committee.

And remember, American Foundation for the Blind stands ready to help you on general program problems; National Industries for the Blind offers help to sheltered workshops. AFB's address is 15 West 16th Street, New York, N. Y. 10011. NIB's is 50 West 44th Street, New York, N.Y. 10036.



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NATIONAL ACCREDITATION COUNCIL

*For Agencies Serving the Blind
and Visually Handicapped*

84 Fifth Avenue • New York, N. Y. 10011 • (212) 691-3232

No. 8

Winter, 1970

NAC IS MOVING!

As of February 16, 1970, the offices
of the National Accreditation Council
will be at

79 Madison Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10016

Please change your records accordingly
and plan to visit us in our new offices
when you are in New York. The building
is between 28th and 29th Streets, con-
venient to buses and subways.

FIRST NATIONAL ACCREDITATION COUNCIL AWARDS

Dr. Mary E. Switzer and Jansen Noyes, Jr. will be the first recipients
of a new award -- the National Accreditation Council Award for distinguished
leadership in raising standards of service to blind and visually handicapped
people.

Each award - a design by Steuben Glass - will be presented at the dinner
session of NAC's Annual Meeting in Chicago on Friday, April 24, 1970.

Miss Switzer and Mr. Noyes were selected because their vision and con-
tinued encouragement and support has resulted in the establishment of a new,
voluntary system of self-regulation in the field -- a system which is administered
by NAC with the goal of improving services to blind people nationwide.

Miss Switzer, Administrator of the Social and Rehabilitation Service of
HEW, will have assumed a new post as Vice President of the World Rehabilitation
Fund by the time she receives the award. Mr. Noyes, a general partner in
Hornblower & Weeks - Hemphill, Noyes, is president of the American Foundation
for the Blind.

It is expected that the award will be given annually by the Council for leadership that has brought about improved standards in general services to the blind or in a specific area of service.

THREE MORE AGENCIES ACCREDITED

At its meeting in December, 1969, the Commission on Accreditation approved accreditation of Arkansas Enterprises for the Blind, Little Rock; Cincinnati Association for the Blind, Ohio; and the Houston-Harris County Lighthouse for the Blind, Texas.

In announcing the accreditations, Ewald B. Nyquist, New York State Commissioner of Education and chairman of the Council's Commission on Accreditation, reported that the number of agencies seeking accreditation is increasing steadily. As of the fall of 1969, there were 69 schools and agencies in various stages of preparation. Of these, 18 are expected to complete their self-studies by June 30, 1970.

ACCREDITATION DOES MEAN HIGHER STANDARDS

Although 11 agencies and residential schools have been accredited, 14 agencies actually have been reviewed by the Commission on Accreditation.

This means that the Commission encouraged three agencies to continue their efforts at self-improvement and reapply at a later date.

ACCREDITATION ANNIVERSARY

In his report to the NAC Board, Alexander F. Handel, executive director, noted that another milestone of the accreditation process had been passed in the fall of '69: the three agencies that were first in the nation to be accredited filed with the Council their first annual reports of progress.

Continuous review and improvement is the heart of the accreditation process, as can be attested by the pioneer three: The Cleveland Society for the Blind, Ohio; the Massachusetts Association for the Blind, Boston; and the Rhode Island Association for the Blind, Providence.

THESE CAN HELP YOU GET READY

Want to learn how volunteers can play a more useful and satisfying role in your agency?

Would you like to find new ways for board members and chief executives of agencies and schools to keep abreast of what's happening in the community?

If you are in the vicinity of Baltimore, Maryland, or Columbus, Ohio, you can learn these things and much more....all of which can help you prepare for accreditation or for continued improvement in your services.

The American Foundation for the Blind is holding an Administrative Institute in Baltimore on Thursday and Friday, April 9 and 10, 1970.

A similar institute is scheduled for Columbus, Ohio, on Thursday and Friday, May 7 and 8, 1970.

Each institute will begin shortly after noon on Thursday. There will be an afternoon and an evening session on Thursday and a session on Friday morning. This allows for travel time or a chance to get to the office and handle urgent matters on both days.

Board members are warmly invited, together with agency executives. There is no limit to the number of board members that may attend.

Registration is free. There is no charge for either institute.

For information about registration write:

Miss Marie Morrison
American Foundation for the Blind
15 West 16 Street
New York, New York 10011

CONFERENCE ON STANDARDS

Persons who have responsibility for the production of reading materials - tactile (braille), recorded, and large-type - are being invited to attend the NAC Conference on Standards for the Production of Reading Materials which will be held at the Pick-Congress Hotel in Chicago, April 23 and 24, 1970.

If you have such responsibility, wish to attend the conference, and have not received an invitation by February 28, please get in touch with Mr. Huesten Collingwood at NAC. He will be glad to see that you receive information about registration.

We know that in spite of all our efforts we may not have the names of all those who should participate in this conference.

And remember, when you write NAC, be sure to use the new address for any mail that will reach us after February 13.

COPIES OF COMSTAC REPORT STILL AVAILABLE FOR SIGHTED AND BLIND

But they're going fast! The recorded edition, at \$10, and the braille edition, at \$6, are now available only on a first-come, first-served basis. The recorded edition consists of nine 10" discs, 16-2/3 rpm. The braille is in nine volumes. Order from the National Accreditation Council. Remember new address after February 13.

The COMSTAC Report - Standards for Strengthened Service is much more than the definitive compilation of standards for administration and program. It is a basic reference work for anyone in the field -- a capsule history of the development of services for blind and visually handicapped people in this country; a resource for anyone who wants to clarify his own thinking and formulate his own philosophy of what an agency for the blind should seek to accomplish; basic information for board and staff preparing for accreditation.

In short, The COMSTAC Report is a classic that belongs in the library of thoughtful executives and board members.

The paperback edition is \$3; the hardbound edition is \$6. Orders should be accompanied by remittance payable to National Accreditation Council.

NAC IS NOW A MEMBER OF NBCC

NBCC stands for National Budget and Consultation Committee.

Membership in NBCC means that NAC's own program, administration, and general purposes have been reviewed by a national body and have been found to meet accepted national standards.

Membership also means that NAC has been certified as worthy of support by local united funds and community chests.

"Support" includes support through the fees and dues of agencies that are or may be accredited by NAC. Thus agencies that are members of united funds should find greater understanding and acceptance when they include accreditation fees and NAC membership dues in their budgets.

NBCC membership also has meaning for agencies that are not members of any united fund. Foundations and other sophisticated contributors recognize NBCC as an important source of information about national agencies. NAC's membership in NBCC will provide your contributors with added assurance that amounts you budget for accreditation are part of a system that has been approved by objective local representatives as well as representatives of other major national agencies.

NBCC is a "cooperative process in which citizen leaders representing local communities and national health and welfare agencies report on agency programs, budgets and support plans."

NAC is pleased to be a member of this nationwide cooperative body because it believes this membership will be helpful to all agencies that are accredited or seek accreditation for their services to blind and visually handicapped Americans.



the standard-bearer

NATIONAL ACCREDITATION COUNCIL

*For Agencies Serving the Blind
and Visually Handicapped*

79 Madison Avenue • New York, N. Y. 10016 • (212) 683-8581

No. 9

Spring 1970



Highlight of the NAC Annual Meeting in Chicago, April 24, was the presentation of the first NAC Award for outstanding leadership in raising standards of service to the blind and visually handicapped. Recipients of the award, a design by Steuben Glass, were Jansen Noyes, Jr. and Miss Mary E. Switzer, shown left. Mr. Noyes, in his response, traced the development of American voluntarism and the growing partnership between govern-

ment and private philanthropy. He predicted that, as requests for funds increase the public will react with increasing demands for assurance that public money is being well spent. Thus accreditation will be increasingly important as a way of providing such assurance.

Miss Switzer warned that new difficulties may lie ahead: agencies may accept the idea of accreditation but do nothing about it. She noted that the expending or withholding of public money may provide the impetus needed.

ROSTER OF ACCREDITED AGENCIES

Attending the Annual Meeting were 12 out of the 16 agencies and schools now accredited as Charter Members of NAC. The full list includes:

Arkansas Enterprises for the Blind
Arkansas School for the Blind
Cincinnati Association for the Blind
The Cleveland Society for the Blind
Dallas County Association for the Blind
The Hadley School for the Blind
Lighthouse for the Blind of Houston
(formerly Houston-Harris County
Lighthouse for the Blind
The Maryland School for the Blind

Massachusetts Association for the Blind
Ohio State School for the Blind
Oregon State School for the Blind
Perkins School for the Blind
Rhode Island Association for the Blind
Rhode Island Division of Services for
the Blind
Tennessee School for the Blind
Virginia Commission for the Visually
Handicapped

HEAD FOR ACCREDITATION, REHAB LEADERS PROPOSE

The Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation at its April 22, 1970 meeting adopted a resolution of far-reaching import to all facilities providing services to clients of state divisions of vocational rehabilitation. The resolution calls for all such agencies to seek accreditation or certification by June 30, 1974 and, in any event, to secure accreditation by June 30, 1976. NAC is one of the accrediting agencies designated by the resolution.

CHARTER MEMBERS - WHO'S NEXT?

December 31, 1970 is the deadline for applications from agencies to be considered for charter membership in NAC. Charter members will be those whose applications are submitted no later than that date, whose self-studies are completed by July 31, 1971, and that are approved for accreditation. As we go to press, 17 agencies have submitted self-studies or have reported that they plan to complete self-studies by the end of 1970.

CHARTER MEMBERS REPORT

President Arthur L. Brandon asked charter members at the Annual Meeting to comment on their experiences. Several pointed out the unifying effect of the self-study, interest and enthusiasm generated by the on-site visit, leverage provided by outside, objective comments to help staff achieve long-sought goals.

CONFERENCE ON READING MATERIALS PRODUCTION

Nearly 200 people from all parts of the U. S. came to Chicago at their own expense to take part in the National Conference on Standards for the Production of Reading Materials for the Blind and Visually Handicapped, April 23 and 24, at the Pick-Congress Hotel.

The Reverend Thomas J. Carroll, chairman of the task force that developed the draft standards, had words of warm praise for "the high degree of enthusiasm and real constructive thinking" that characterized the participants.

As a result of the conferees' suggestions, many revisions are being made in the draft material. It is expected that the standards will be published this fall. In addition to the publication of the standards, there will be a supplement to the Self-Study and Evaluation Guide so that agencies that produce reading materials may include this aspect of their work in their self-studies. The Standard-bearer will announce both publications when they are ready.

The discussion groups at the conference also noted the need for more comprehensive how-to-do-it manuals to guide transcribers, recorders, and large-print typists.

ARE YOU OVERLOOKING A SOURCE OF INCOME?

Federally funded public assistance programs are authorized to purchase services from "public, nonprofit or proprietary private agencies, or individuals."* Many agencies for the blind could be providing these services, just as they now provide them to rehabilitation programs.

The regulations require a State plan which must: "assure that the sources from which services are purchased are licensed, approved as meeting State licensing standards, meet applicable accrediting standards, or in the absence of licensing or accrediting standards, meet standards or criteria established by the State agency to assure quality of service..."

Accredited agencies for the blind will meet this requirement.

Your Social and Rehabilitation Service Regional Commissioners have further information. Regional offices are in Boston; New York City; Charlottesville, Virginia; Atlanta; Chicago; Kansas City, Missouri; Dallas; Denver; San Francisco.

URGENT APPLICANT

Just before this spring's postal strike, an applicant for accreditation mailed its self-study at the local post office. When the strike came the resourceful agency executive retrieved the package - then checked United Parcel Service - and sure enough, UPS arrived at the NAC office on a mailless day with the promised self-study.

WATCH IT! THE TAX REFORM ACT OF 1969

Some time in the next few months the Internal Revenue Service is expected to announce that tax exempt agencies must re-file to maintain their tax exemption under the Act of 1969. Tax exempt agencies and schools for the blind should watch for this announcement. And when it comes, get all the necessary instructions and file promptly. The tax deductibility of contributions made to your organization may depend on it.

* Titles I, IV - Part A, X, XIV, and XVI of the Social Security Act, pursuant to 1967 amendments.

NAC ELECTS

Three new Board members were elected at NAC's Annual Meeting in Chicago on April 24, 1970, for three-year terms:



Donald W. Flynn, left, is assistant vice president of the Rhode Island Hospital Trust National Bank, Providence. He is also president of the Rhode Island Association for the Blind, one of the first three agencies to be accredited. Mr. Flynn is treasurer of the Citizens Scholarship Foundation of East Greenwich, R. I., has served in various positions on the United Fund of Southeastern New England (Providence) and is a member of the East Greenwich Lions. Mr. Flynn is an alumnus of St. Michael's College, Winooski Park, Vermont, and has done graduate work at Boston University.



Morton Pepper, partner in the New York City law firm of Pepper & Pepper, has been president and is now honorary president of The Jewish Guild for the Blind, New York. He serves as treasurer of Manhattanville Community Centers, Inc. and is chairman of the board of Mobilization for Youth Legal Services - all in New York City. Mr. Pepper is particularly interested in problems of blindness and of youth in the inner city, especially the legal aspects. He is a graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Law School and during World War II served in the U. S. Navy with the rank of lieutenant commander.



Miss Mary E. Switzer, top woman administrator in the Federal government until her retirement this year, is vice president of the World Rehabilitation Fund, based in Washington, D. C. As administrator, Social and Rehabilitation Service, HEW, Miss Switzer improved and accelerated all aspects of federally supported rehabilitation, thereby affecting state and local programs as well. She is the only person, aside from the secretaries of HEW, to be presented with the official departmental flag. Miss Switzer is the first woman to serve on the boards of Georgetown University and Assumption College.

The following officers were elected for one-year terms by the Board at its meeting on Saturday, April 25:

President, Arthur L. Brandon, Lewisburg, Pennsylvania; Vice President, Peter J. Salmon, Brooklyn, New York; Vice President, J. Kenneth Cozier, Cleveland, Ohio; Vice President, Frederick G. Storey, Atlanta, Georgia; Secretary, Mrs. Edwin D. Campbell, Carlisle, Massachusetts; Treasurer, Daniel D. Robinson, New York.



the standard-bearer

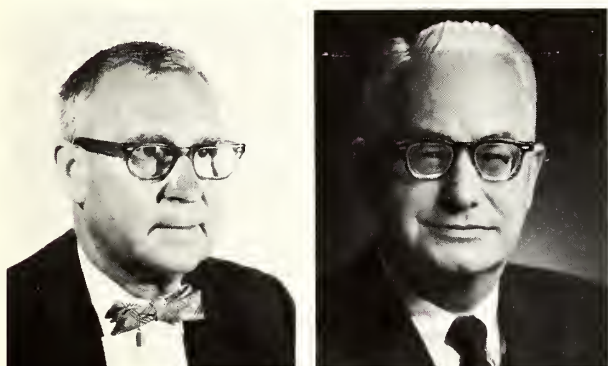
NATIONAL ACCREDITATION COUNCIL

*For Agencies Serving the Blind
and Visually Handicapped*

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No. 10

Fall 1970



Greer H. Lile Photo

NAC Board member Richard E. Hoover, M.D. (far left) and Roy Kumpe, executive director of a Charter Accredited Member of NAC, will receive this year's Migel Medal, awarded by the American Foundation for the Blind for leadership in service to blind persons. Dr. Hoover, who is chief of ophthalmology at the Greater Baltimore Medical Center, is creator of the long-cane travel technique which is widely used by the blind. Mr. Kumpe is

the executive director of Arkansas Enterprises for the Blind, rehabilitation center located in Little Rock. Dr. Hoover was named for his work on the voluntary level, Mr. Kumpe on the professional level. Both Dr. Hoover and Mr. Kumpe served on committees of the Commission on Standards and Accreditation of Services for the Blind (COMSTAC) NAC's predecessor organization.

Last year Arthur L. Brandon, NAC president, received this award, one of the most highly regarded in the field.

Formal presentation ceremonies will be held at the headquarters of AFB in New York City on October 22 of this year.

FOUR MORE SCHOOLS AND AGENCIES ACCREDITED

At the meeting of the NAC Commission on Accreditation on September 17, the following schools and agencies were granted Charter Accredited Membership:

Michigan School for the Blind - Robert H. Thompson, Superintendent

The New York Association for the Blind - Wesley D. Sprague, Executive Director

Oklahoma School for the Blind - V. R. Carter, Superintendent

Pittsburgh Branch, Pennsylvania Association for the Blind -

Mrs. Marcella C. Goldberg, Executive Director

NEW NAC ASSOCIATES

NAC is happy to welcome four additional agencies - the American Library Association, Choice Magazine Listening, Dialogue and Kansas Association for the Blind - as Associates. Associates are agencies, not at present subject to accreditation, that are committed to high standards of service to blind and visually handicapped people.

ALA members participated in the development of NAC's standards for libraries and the ALA has distributed the standards to its members as well as continuing to cooperate in other ways.

Choice Magazine Listening is a bi-monthly talking book anthology of selections from other magazines such as National Geographic, Fortune, and The New Yorker.

Dialogue edits and publishes a quarterly general magazine of that name, using original material, on records and tape and in braille.

The Kansas Association for the Blind is the state affiliate of the American Council of the Blind, which has long been an NAC Associate.

RECOGNITION TO NAC BOARD MEMBERS

James G. Haughton, M.D. of the NAC Board, will move to Chicago later this year as executive director, Cook County Hospital Governing Commission, one of the leading public health positions of the nation. He has been first deputy administrator, New York City Health Services Administration.

Norman V. Lourie, NAC Board member who is also deputy secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare, was selected to write the U.S. Report presented at the International Conference on Social Welfare in Manila, Philippine Islands, on September 7. The report, "New Strategies for Social Development - Role of Social Welfare," is extraordinarily stimulating as well as comprehensive.

Ewald B. Nyquist, Board member and chairman of NAC's Commission on Accreditation, was inaugurated on September 15 as president of the University of the State of New York and State Commissioner of Education. In spite of his many responsibilities, Mr. Nyquist continues to be concerned with accreditation as he has been throughout his career. He served as secretary and then chairman of the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education for the Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.

J. M. Woolly, superintendent of the Arkansas School for the Blind and chairman of NAC's Commission on Standards, has received the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws from his alma mater, Hendrix College, Conway, Arkansas.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Standard for Production of Reading Materials for the Blind and Visually Handicapped

a new publication, is now available from the National Accreditation Council.

The standards contained in the book have been officially approved by the Council's Commission on Standards.

Heads of agencies or departments that produce large-print, recorded or tactile materials will want to have these standards readily available. Individual transcribers and recorders, whether volunteer or professional, should find them useful too.

Divided into four major sections, the 80-page, soft cover book includes basic guidelines for producers in each of the three media, plus general principles and policies which should guide production in each medium.

The standards were prepared by panels of specialists and reviewed at a National Conference on Standards attended by nearly 200 producers, users, and distributors of reading materials for the blind.

Incorporating current "best practice", the standards are intended to be useful to those whose groups are not eligible to apply for accreditation as well as to agencies that can and should apply.

To order Standards for Production of Reading Materials for the Blind and Visually Handicapped, use the order form in the enclosed flyer. Fill out and return with your remittance to

National Accreditation Council
for Agencies Serving the Blind and Visually Handicapped
79 Madison Avenue, Suite 1406
New York, N. Y. 10016

Copies are \$1.50 each. Only orders of \$5.00 or more can be accepted, without remittance, for later billing.

* * * * *

NOTE FOR AGENCIES THAT PRODUCE READING MATERIALS AND THAT PLAN TO APPLY FOR ACCREDITATION

The standards have been incorporated in a supplement to the NAC Self-Study and Evaluation Guide. The supplement, Section D7, will be included henceforth with every purchase of the Guide at no additional cost. Like other sections of the Guide, it will also be available separately for use as working material by self-study committees. When ordered separately, Section D7 will cost \$1.00.

WORKSHOPS HEADING FOR ACCREDITATION

William O. McGill, chairman of the Committee on Certification of Affiliation of the General Council of Workshops for the Blind, has commented as follows on the General Council's new policies regarding certification and accreditation.

"Although two options are open to them at present, it makes sense for members of the General Council of Workshops for the Blind to aim for nothing less than accreditation by the National Accreditation Council.

"In order to meet a major part of the General Council's requirement for certification, a workshop must be accredited or seeking accreditation from NAC - or it must submit a satisfactory self-study report to the General Council by December 31, 1970. The self-study is the first stage in the accreditation process anyway.

"Workshops are also on notice that State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation expect all agencies from which they purchase services to be accredited no later than June 30, 1976.

"Workshops which presently select the certification route may find that this experience is valuable preparation for the accreditation route within the next three to five years. Undoubtedly, there will be some workshops which realize that the work on the Self-Study enables them to change and request accreditation as a result of the Study."

WHAT REALLY HAPPENS?

Standards - self-studies - accreditation - are not ends in themselves. They are the means of improving services to blind and visually handicapped people. And the purpose of improving services is to help people to lead happier, more satisfying lives.

Thus all accredited agencies and schools will want to check regularly on what happens to those they serve.

A first step in this direction is taken in "A Follow-Up Study, Ninety Graduates of the Ohio State School for the Blind, Class of 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969."

Prepared by Richard L. Henriques, vocational rehabilitation counselor, Ohio Bureau of Services for the Blind, the report's purpose is "to provide teachers, educators, counselors, administrators, students, parents and interested citizens with information on what graduates of the Ohio State School for the Blind are doing as of December 31, 1969." Mr. Henriques goes on to say: "Some inferences may be drawn ...but further research is needed before the impact of educational programming and vocational rehabilitation counseling...may be evaluated."

The Ohio State School for the Blind in Columbus is one of the nine schools for the blind that have been accredited by NAC to date. Donald W. Overbeay is superintendent.

WELCOME

The National Accreditation Council was pleased to welcome:

Mrs. Claire W. Carlson of New York City as a member of the Program Support Committee. A trustee of Bucknell University, Mrs. Carlson is head of Claire W. Carlson, engineering and legal consultants for real estate development.

Cleo B. Dolan as a member of the Commission on Standards and of the Program Support Committee. Mr. Dolan is executive director of The Cleveland Society for the Blind and president-elect of the American Association of Workers for the Blind.

Mrs. Jeri Rougagnac as a member of the Commission on Standards. Mrs. Rougagnac is executive director of the Lighthouse for the Blind of Houston, Texas, and was a member of the Committee on Standards for Vocational Services of the Commission on Standards and Accreditation of Services for the Blind (COMSTAC), NAC's predecessor organization.

AOA AWARD

NAC Associate, the American Optometric Association, has presented the Apollo Award, its highest citation for "distinguished service to the visual welfare of Americans" to Mrs. Helen W. Worden, executive director of the Rhode Island Association for the Blind. The Association is one of the first three agencies in the U.S. to qualify for NAC accreditation.

DEADLINE REMINDER

Last call for Charter Members! December 31, 1970 is the deadline for applications from agencies to be considered for charter membership in NAC.

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No. 11

Winter 1971

SEVEN MORE ACCREDITED

On December 10, 1970 the NAC Commission on Accreditation, of which Ewald B. Nyquist is chairman, granted accreditation to the following seven agencies:

Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind
Washington, D. C.

J. Arthur Johnson, Executive Director
W. Baldwin Buchanan, President

Dallas Services for Blind Children, Texas
Mrs. Lucie D. Lade, Executive Director
Mrs. W. W. Browning, Jr., President

Lions Club Industries for the Blind
Durham, North Carolina
Conway Harris, General Manager
H. E. Gwin, President

Maine Division of Eye Care, Augusta
Paul E. Rourke, Director
Dean Fisher, M.D., Commissioner
Department of Health and Welfare

Metropolitan Society for the Blind
Detroit, Michigan

McAllister Upshaw, Executive
Director
Keith W. Evans, President

Minneapolis Society for the Blind
Minnesota

Frank R. Johnson, Executive
Director
James H. Grenell, President

Shreveport Association for the Blind
Louisiana

E. J. Robinson, Executive Director
C. Cody White, Jr., President

This brings to twenty-seven the number of accredited agencies and schools in 18 states and the District of Columbia.

Meanwhile the pace of accreditation continues to quicken. On-site reviews have already been scheduled for 1971 and additional reviews will shortly be scheduled for several self-studies received at the turn of the year.

NAC ANNUAL MEETING TO IMMEDIATELY PRECEDE NIB MEETINGS

The Galt Ocean Mile Hotel, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, will be the site of NAC's Annual Meeting Saturday, May 1, 1971. The time and place of the meeting were chosen to make it more economical for administrators and others concerned with improving standards of service to the blind to attend both the NAC annual meeting and two following meetings at the same hotel sponsored by National Industries for the Blind.

Main program of the morning NAC session, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m., will be a discussion of the theme, Accreditation - Key to Survival and Financing of Voluntary and Government Rehabilitation Programs in the '70's. Leaders will be John R. May, executive director, San Francisco Foundation, and Warren Thompson, assistant regional director, HEW, Denver, Colorado. Mr. Thompson has also headed state programs in Colorado and California.

The NAC Awards Dinner at 7 p.m. will follow a reception starting at 5:30 p.m. The NAC Award is given for outstanding leadership in improving standards of service to blind people. The name of the 1971 recipient will be announced later. In 1970 Miss Mary E. Switzer and Mr. Jansen Noyes, Jr. received the award, a sculptured design by Steuben Glass.

READING MATERIALS STANDARDS WELCOMED

"Standards for the Production of Reading Materials for the Blind and Visually Handicapped is a wonderful tool to provide improved reading materials for all unable to read ordinary print. The combined efforts of your staff, the project officers and you resulted in a remarkable product for immediate usefulness and for long range progress...Now it shall be a challenge to expedite their implementation."

This comment from Miss Adeline Franzel, coordinator, Programs for Blind, Handicapped and Institutionalized, New Jersey Library for the Blind and Handicapped, is typical of many that NAC has received since the publication of the standards. As we go to press, almost 1500 copies of the standards have been distributed - many hundreds purchased by the dedicated volunteers who produce reading materials in all three media.

STANDARDS SPARK FURTHER PROGRESS

One aim of the reading materials standards project was to avoid wasteful duplication of time and effort by producers of reading materials who could not find out what materials had already been produced. Don Staley, executive director of Recording for the Blind, who headed the project committee on recorded materials, reports that his Board of Directors has unanimously passed the following resolution:

IN MEMORIAM

M. Anne McGuire

Miss Margaret Anne McGuire, member of the NAC Board of Directors, died on December 20, 1970, after a long illness.

When Miss McGuire became director of the New York State Commission for the Blind in 1954, the announcement of her appointment characterized her as a "career woman in public service." The phrase was apt. All her life Anne McGuire was concerned with the well-being of others. At the time of her death she was a consultant on social administration who also gave generously of her time as a volunteer. She was a member of the Grants Advisory Council of The Seeing Eye in addition to serving on the Executive Committee of the National Accreditation Council. She had also been a member of the Commission on Standards and Accreditation of Services for the Blind (COMSTAC), predecessor of NAC.

Miss McGuire brought to everything she did an unfailing personal charm and warmth as well as keen insight and professional excellence.

WILLIAM H. NICHOLS

William H. Nichols, member of the Board of Directors of NAC, died of a heart attack on November 30, 1970.

Mr. Nichols, who was real estate specialist for the Nationwide group of insurance companies, had been an active layman in the field of work for the blind for many years. Through his participation in the Lions Club and as an individual he has sought to improve services to and job opportunities for blind people. He was a member of the original Board of Directors of NAC and had currently been serving as chairman of the Nominations Committee. He was a director and past president of the Vision Center of Central Ohio (formerly Blind Association of Central Ohio) and a director of the Franklin County Sight Saving Committee. The November 1970 issue of New Outlook for the Blind carries his thoughtful article on "Blind Persons in Data Processing: The Attitude of Industry."

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The leadership of Anne McGuire and William Nichols will be greatly missed by all who had the privilege of knowing and working with them.



"RESOLVED, that Recording for the Blind accept educational tapes from responsible organizations recording educational materials for blind and visually handicapped, which are recorded in accordance with the National Accreditation Council's Standards for the Production of Recorded Reading Materials; subject to RFB's approval and capability to duplicate and circulate copies free-on-loan in accordance with standard RFB procedures."

Mr. Staley and his board have taken an important leadership step toward the future formation of a national repository of recorded educational materials.

MORE WORKSHOPS QUALIFY FOR ACCREDITATION

A majority of the seven newly accredited agencies - the Columbia Lighthouse, Lions Club Industries, the Minneapolis Society and the Shreveport Association - are affiliates of National Industries for the Blind. This brings the total of accredited NIB affiliates to twelve.

Noel B. Price, vice president and general manager of NIB, recently wrote:

"We believe that all workshops would be well advised to seek accreditation through the procedures of NAC. We are confident that accreditation will have more value to the agency than any other procedure. The experience of the on-site review will serve the long-range interests of blind clients, board and staff in a more meaningful way."

NUMBER OF BLIND TO INCREASE - IMPROVED SERVICES MORE URGENT

Carl Kupfer, M.D., director, National Eye Institute, told the annual meeting of the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness in late 1970:

"Vision disorders constitute one of the nation's leading health and disability problems...this year 350,000 Americans will suffer significant visual loss and 50,000 of these will become blind.... Projected into the future this means that over one-half million Americans will become blind in the next decade if the present trend continues."

Dr. Kupfer stressed the role of voluntary agencies in initiating imaginative research projects and training young researchers. He also noted that "the demise of the Public Health Service's chronic disease program has created another need which voluntary groups can fill...by providing consultative and technical assistance to local health agencies, conducting screening programs, and disseminating research information to practicing professionals."



Mrs. Claire W. Carlson was elected to the Board of Directors of the National Accreditation Council at the Board's meeting on December 3, 1970. Mrs. Carlson, who continues as a member of the Council's Program Support Committee, is an attorney and civil engineer. A trustee also of her alma mater, Bucknell University, Mrs. Carlson heads her own real estate consulting firm in New York City.

DR. SALMON HONORED

Peter J. Salmon, NAC vice president, has had two awards added to the many he has received. Social and Rehabilitation Services of HEW has presented him with a commemorative medallion struck for individuals and organizations that have contributed substantially to the development of the State-Federal Vocational Rehabilitation Program. He has also received the Bell Greve Award, highest award given by the National Rehabilitation Association.

"IMPORTANT LINE OF COMMUNICATION"

Addressing the annual conference of the New England Chapter of the American Association of Workers for the Blind, Donald W. Flynn, assistant vice president of the Rhode Island Hospital Trust National Bank said:

"Yes, we received accreditation...and it is very meaningful to us. But it is also meaningful that we are more knowledgeable about our Agency....we have developed a most important line of communication to fulfill our prime objective which is, of course, to offer quality services to blind and visually handicapped persons in our community...Look to the 70's - look to accreditation - you can't afford not to."

Mr. Flynn is president of the Rhode Island Association for the Blind and a member of NAC's Board of Directors.

NAC IS ALL THIRTEEN

The recently published Rehabilitation Research and Demonstration Projects 1955-1970, Final Reports and Resultant Publications of Projects Sponsored by the Social and Rehabilitation Service, HEW lists 13 project publications under the heading "Accreditation." All 13 were produced by NAC or its predecessor, the Commission on Standards and Accreditation of Services to the Blind (COMSTAC).

NAC has been classified as "not a private foundation" as defined in section 509(a) of the Internal Revenue Code in accordance with the 1969 Tax Reform Act. This means that there is NO change in NAC's status as a publicly supported organization to which contributions, including bequests and memorial gifts, are tax deductible.

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No. 12

Spring-Summer 1971



Dr. James F. Garrett (far left) received the NAC Award for outstanding leadership in strengthening standards of service for blind Americans on May 1, 1971, at NAC'S Annual Meeting in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Shown presenting the award is Arthur L. Brandon, president of NAC.

Dr. Garrett is assistant administrator, Social and Rehabilitation Service, U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

Previous recipients of the award, a sculpture by Steuben Glass, are Mary E. Switzer, vice president, World Rehabilitation Fund, and Jansen Noyes, Jr., chairman of the Board of Trustees, American Foundation for the Blind.

ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

In his acceptance speech at the annual Awards Dinner, Dr. Garrett outlined current policies and emphases of HEW. He stressed the importance of improving delivery of services to the handicapped. Services supported by HEW must be able to demonstrate their effectiveness in relation to their cost. The time may come, perhaps is not far off, when HEW will expect agencies offering such services to qualify for accreditation as evidence that they meet accepted standards.

Speakers at the morning session of the Annual Meeting were John R. May, director, The San Francisco Foundation, and Warren Thompson, assistant regional director, Department of Health, Education and Welfare, Denver, Colorado.

Mr. May stated that personal gifts, united fund support, foundation grants and bequests will increasingly go to accredited as contrasted with unaccredited agencies. Mr. Thompson spoke of current attacks on the independent status of state agencies

for the blind. Agencies that meet nationally accepted standards and qualify for accreditation can more readily justify public confidence and support, he said.

SIX NEW ACCREDITATIONS

Announced to the Annual Meeting was the charter accredited membership of the following agencies and school:

The Chicago Lighthouse for the Blind, William O. McGill, executive director; Evansville, Indiana, Association for the Blind, Frank E. Kern, executive director; Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School, Frank Rocco, superintendent; The Lighthouse For The Blind, Incorporated, Seattle, Washington, Rudolph Elmer, executive director; Division of Rehabilitation for the Visually Impaired, Arizona State Department of Public Welfare, Richard W. Bleecker, director; The Maryland Workshop for the Blind, George H. Park, executive director.

This brings to 33 the number of agencies and schools in 22 states and the District of Columbia that have earned accreditation, starting in the fall of 1968. Of the 23 agencies, 4 are the state agencies for the blind in Arizona, Maine, Rhode Island and Virginia; 13 are voluntary agencies supported by united funds; 6 are unaffiliated voluntary agencies. Of the 10 accredited schools, 8 are state schools and 2 are privately supported. The complete roster of currently accredited agencies and schools is available from NAC on request.

HOW ACCREDITATION WORKS

An agency or school that meets the nationally accepted standards administered by NAC is awarded accredited membership for an initial period of five years. An agency found to have deficiencies but currently able to meet minimal standards may be granted accredited status for an initial period of less than five years if it demonstrates willingness and potential to correct the deficiencies within specified time limits.

The applications of institutions that do not meet standards may be deferred, pending correction of deficiencies that have been noted, or may be denied. Of the 33 accredited institutions two had been previously deferred and were successful in making recommended improvements. Only one agency so far has been denied accreditation because of lack of demonstrated capacity to correct weaknesses.

BOARD MEMBERS ELECTED

Elected to the NAC Board of Directors for three-year terms at the Annual Meeting were:

Jack W. Birch - Dr. Birch is associate dean of the University of Pittsburgh School of Education and has for many years been a leader in the education of the handicapped. He has served as president of the Council on Exceptional Children and the Pittsburgh Psychological Association. He is a Fellow of the American Psychological Association

and of the American Association on Mental Deficiency. He has served as consultant to more than a score of local, national and international organizations. Dr. Birch was formerly chairman of NAC's Advisory Committee on the Accreditation of Educational Services and succeeds Ewald B. Nyquist, commissioner of education of the State of New York, as chairman of NAC's Commission on Accreditation.

Robert M. Buckley - Mr. Buckley is vice president, Wesley Day and Company, Des Moines, Iowa, engaged in advertising, marketing and public relations. He has been active in prevention of blindness and served a number of terms as president of the Iowa Society for the Prevention of Blindness. He was recently elected chairman of the board of the Iowa Society. He also serves on the Committee on Affiliate Relationships of the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness.

Melvin A. Glasser - Dr. Glasser, who had previously served on the NAC board, was elected to a new term after an interval of one year. He is director of the Social Security Department of the United Auto Workers of America, with offices in Detroit, Michigan. Previous to joining the UAW he was dean of University Resources and visiting professor at the Graduate School of Advanced Studies in Social Welfare at Brandeis. He also has served as executive vice president of the National Foundation and associate chief of the U. S. Children's Bureau.

Huntington Harris - A resident of Leesburg, Virginia, Dr. Harris was founder and president of Press Intelligence, Inc. of Washington, D. C. and is now director of Quadri-Science, Inc. of Washington. He is vice-chairman of the County Board of Loudoun County, Virginia. Dr. Harris has served on the Board of Governors, American National Red Cross, and as national fund vice-chairman-at-large. He is a trustee of the Brookings Institution.

Joseph Jaworski - A partner in the Houston law firm of Bracewell & Patterson, Mr. Jaworski is deeply concerned with work for the blind and is a member of the board of trustees of the Lighthouse for the Blind of Houston. He also serves on the board of the West Family Young Men's Christian Association and is prosecutor, Grievance Committee, State Bar of Texas.

Richard H. Migel - Mr. Migel has for many years devoted himself to improving the condition of blind people throughout the world. He supported, from the beginning, the development of standards for services to the blind. Mr. Migel is vice chairman of the Board of Trustees of the American Foundation for the Blind and vice chairman of the Board of Directors of the American Foundation for the Overseas Blind. He also serves as chairman of the Executive Committee of the Tuxedo Memorial Hospital, in Tuxedo, New York, where he lives.

In addition, the following were reelected to the Board: M. Robert Barnett, executive director, American Foundation for the Blind; Mrs. Edwin D. Campbell, board member and former president of the Massachusetts Association for the Blind; Richard E. Hoover, M.D., ophthalmologist and originator of the Hoover technique of cane mobility for the blind; John R. May, executive director, The San Francisco Foundation;

Ewald B. Nyquist, New York State commissioner of education; Mrs. Claire W. Carlson, engineer and lawyer, head of a consulting firm bearing her name.

NAC OFFICERS CONTINUE

At the meeting of the Board of Directors following the NAC Annual Meeting, the following slate of officers was reelected: president, Arthur L. Brandon; vice presidents, Peter J. Salmon, J. Kenneth Cozier, Frederick G. Storey; secretary, Mrs. Edwin D. Campbell; treasurer, Daniel D. Robinson.

RESEARCH ASSOCIATE JOINS NAC STAFF

On April 16, 1971, Belle Buchman Wiggins (Mrs. Lee M. Wiggins) joined the NAC staff as research associate. Her first assignment is the development of criteria and methods for assessing the impact of NAC's system of accreditation on services for blind and visually handicapped persons but she will also be involved in other research related to standards and accreditation.

Mrs. Wiggins for ten years was with the Bureau of Applied Social Research, Columbia University, engaged in all phases of survey research. She also taught laboratory classes in statistics as applied to sociology and aided students to formulate and design projects in preparation for the Master's degree. She has been preceptor in statistics and research methodology at the Columbia University School of Social Work and adjunct lecturer at the Graduate School of Social Work at Hunter College. In addition she has been research associate, Simulmatics Corporation, and subsequently at Behaviormetrics, Inc., firms engaged in survey research.

ON-SITE TEAMS INVOLVE 181

As of May 1, 1971, a total of 181 persons had served on 35 on-site review teams. Forty-eight of this number had served more than once, thus providing a pool of experienced evaluators to serve as leaders of future teams.

Many factors must enter into the selection of a given team. They include the geographical location of the agency being evaluated, the number and scope of agency services, even the time of year, since many persons who have agreed to serve on teams have periods in which they are not available.

NAC has found that its present roster of more than 700 is barely large enough to enable it to make suitable assignments at any given time. Efforts are being made to expand the roster.

Meanwhile, those who are on the roster but who have not yet been called to serve are assured that they are much needed. In order to be prepared to set up teams as quickly as possible anywhere in the country for widely differing agencies and schools NAC must have many potential candidates for team membership. Willingness to serve is greatly appreciated.

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No. 13

Fall 1971

U. S. OFFICE OF EDUCATION LISTS NAC

The National Accreditation Council for Agencies Serving the Blind and Visually Handicapped has achieved another "first."

The Council has been notified by Peter P. Muirhead, Acting U.S. Commissioner of Education, that he has added NAC to the list of "nationally recognized accrediting agencies and associations." This is the first time that an accrediting body covering primary and secondary schools in the field of special education (in this case, residential schools for the blind) has received the official recognition of the U. S. Office of Education.*

The Commissioner's action was taken in concurrence with the recommendation of the Office's Advisory Committee on Accreditation and Institutional Eligibility. An agency so approved must furnish information establishing its compliance with twelve criteria established by the Commissioner to determine whether a national accrediting agency or association is reliable authority as to the quality of training offered by educational institutions.

Informing NAC of his action, Commissioner Muirhead wrote: "Please accept my warm congratulations to your organization for its achievements to date and its promise for the future."

NAC thus joins such organizations as the six regional accrediting bodies in general education, the American Bar Association, the American Library Association, the American Optometric Association, The American Public Health Association, the Council on Medical Education, the Council on Social Work Education, the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education, and others, on the federal listing.

Of these agencies, the six regional accrediting bodies accredit secondary schools as does NAC. They also accredit colleges and universities. Most of the others accredit specialized curricula or schools offering specialized courses beyond the secondary level.

*In accordance with Chapter 33, Title 38, U.S. Code, and subsequent legislation.

WHAT DO YOUR ALUMNI SAY?

Since accreditation is a method of achieving continuous improvement, accredited schools and agencies prepare annual progress reports for NAC. These reports may stress varying elements, depending on the goals to be achieved.

When Herbert J. Wolfe, superintendent of The Maryland School for the Blind, sent his report for the school year 1970-71 he included the findings of a revealing survey.

A questionnaire had been sent in 1969-70 to alumni of the years 1959-69. It consisted of 26 questions related to all areas of the alumni's educational program while attending school, and included some questions of a personal, vocational, educational and recreational nature.

Indicating the school's awareness of the need to be responsive to student reactions was the fact that most of the criticisms and recommendations of the 1959-64 alumni had already been taken into consideration. Recommended changes had been incorporated in the system or their feasibility was being explored.

Stressed by many students was the need to integrate students as early as possible into the social, occupational, recreational activities of the community of the "outside world."

Such information provides valuable feedback that Mr. Wolfe and his staff will use to bring about other desirable changes. The study will be repeated in 1975.

To provide better services to America's blind and visually handicapped citizens, accredited agencies must look not just at what they are doing but at what happens to people as a result. The Maryland School for the Blind has demonstrated one way to find out - and to involve those you serve in the process.

NAC VOLUNTEERS AND STAFF IN THE NEWS

J. Kenneth Cozier, NAC vice president, has been awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters by his alma mater, the University of Nebraska. Mr. Cozier was cited as an outstanding alumnus who has given years of devotion and service to his fellow man.

Cleo B. Dolan, member of NAC's Commission on Standards and its Program Support Committee, is now president of the American Association of Workers for the Blind. Mr. Dolan has been a member of the AAWB Board of Trustees since 1963 and was elected treasurer in 1967.

Alexander F. Handel, executive director of NAC, has been elected secretary of the National Conference on Social Welfare. NCSW is an educational forum for the critical examination of basic welfare problems; it is a voluntary association made up of both individual and organization members.

The New York State Federation of Workers for the Blind has announced that Mr. Handel will be the banquet speaker at the Federation's Annual Meeting, October 7.

Anne L. New, NAC's consultant on community relations, has been elected secretary of the Association of Fund-raising Directors. Miss New was also recently appointed chairman of the Education Committee of the New York Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America of which she is an accredited member.

ANNE McGUIRE MEMORIAL FUND CONTINUES

Dr. Peter J. Salmon, chairman of the M. Anne McGuire Memorial Fund, reports that about 50 persons have sent gifts to honor the late NAC Board member. Many donors write that they have only recently heard of this opportunity to support the work to which Miss McGuire devoted so much of the last years of her life. Dr. Salmon stresses that the fund remains open for new and annual contributions. Make checks payable to NAC-M. Anne McGuire Memorial Fund and send to the National Accreditation Council, Suite 1406, 79 Madison Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10016.

FIFTEEN WAYS TO GET GRANTS FOR IMPROVEMENT

What are the Federal agencies that provide funds to expand your services; to pay part of the cost of projects to analyze, improve and increase professional services; to assist in construction, modernization and equipment of facilities; to strengthen education programs in State schools?

You will find at least fifteen sources of grants for these and other purposes in the Directory of Federal Programs for the Handicapped.

Initiated by U. S. Senator Bob Dole of Kansas and reprinted in an easy-to-use format by The Council for Exceptional Children, the Directory has great value to professionals, legislators, agencies, parents and the handicapped themselves. It is the most comprehensive and compact presentation of this information known to NAC.

You may obtain a single copy free on request to The Council for Exceptional Children, 1411 S. Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia 22202. In quantities from two to nine they are one dollar each with the first copy complimentary. Ten or more copies are fifty cents each and arrangements may be made for special prices for larger quantities.

INKSTER JOINS NAC STAFF



Douglas E. Inkster, Ed. D., has been appointed assistant director of the National Accreditation Council, effective September 7, 1971. Dr. Inkster succeeds Charles I. Sheldon who resigned to accept the position of executive director, Planned Parenthood of Westchester, New York.

Dr. Inkster has been director of the Vocational Independence Project (VIP), a rehabilitation center for young adults operated under the auspices of the Foundation for the Junior Blind, Los Angeles. Before going to Los Angeles, Dr. Inkster was assistant superintendent, Chicago State Mental Health Center Complex. He has also served as superintendent of the Illinois Handicapped Institute and as assistant regional representative, U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, Vocational Rehabilitation Administration, Chicago.

Dr. Inkster is a graduate of the University of Miami, Coral Gables, Florida, and holds the degree of Master of Arts in Education from Michigan State University, East Lansing. His doctorate is also from Michigan State. His specialties have been rehabilitation counseling, testing and guidance, supervision and management.

No stranger to the work of NAC, Dr. Inkster served on the COMSTAC (Commission on Standards and Accreditation of Services for the Blind) Committee on Standards for Rehabilitation Centers. He also served on the COMSTAC Long-Range Planning Committee which recommended the establishment of NAC. More recently he has served as a member or chairman of four on-site review teams.

As this issue of The Standard-Bearer went to press, Dr. Inkster, who holds a private pilot's license, had flown East to take up his new job. Mrs. Inkster, who is also a pilot, was to join him shortly.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS BRAILLES NEW STANDARDS

The book, "Standards for Production of Reading Materials for the Blind and Visually Handicapped," published by NAC last November, has been reproduced in braille by the Library of Congress. It is now available throughout the Library's regional library system.

ALERT TO VOLUNTARY AGENCIES

Voluntary agencies for the blind should be aware of the requirements listed in the U. S. Department of Labor publication, "Recordkeeping Requirements under the Williams-Steiger Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970." It is available free on request from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Washington, D. C. 20212.

Look for this symbol of quality service.....



d Smith



the standard-bearer

NATIONAL ACCREDITATION COUNCIL

*For Agencies Serving the Blind
and Visually Handicapped*

79 Madison Avenue • New York, N. Y. 10016 • (212) 683-8581

No. 14

Winter 1972

SIX MORE AGENCIES ACCREDITED

Arthur L. Brandon, president of NAC, has announced the accreditation of six more agencies for the blind. The agencies are:

Kansas

Services for the Blind and Visually Handicapped
State Department of Social Welfare, Topeka
Harry E. Hayes, Director

Mississippi

Royal Maid, Inc., Hazlehurst
John L. Granger, General Manager

Missouri

Kansas City Association for the Blind
Elva Hayes, Executive Director

New York

Blind Work Association, Binghamton
J. F. Zinck, Managing Director

The Industrial Home for the Blind, Brooklyn
John F. Brady, Executive Director

Syracuse Association of Workers for the Blind
Milton Rosenblum, Executive Director

As of the end of 1971, 39 agencies and schools in 25 states and the District of Columbia have earned accreditation from NAC. They are in compliance with nationally accepted standards of administration and service and may be recognized by their use of the NAC seal on material for the field and the general public.

NAC LEADERS HONORED

Norman V. Lourie, NAC board member, has received the W. S. Terry, Jr. Memorial Merit Award from the American Public Welfare Association. The award was made in recognition of Mr. Lourie's national and international leadership over the years. He is a former president of both the National Association of Social Workers and the American Orthopsychiatric Association. Mr. Lourie was recently nominated for the post of first vice president of the National Conference on Social Welfare. He is executive deputy secretary for federal policies and programs of the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare.

William T. Coppage, vice chairman of NAC's Commission on Standards, has received the R. N. Anderson Award for outstanding service in the rehabilitation field in the state of Virginia from the Virginia Rehabilitation Association. Mr. Coppage is director of the Virginia Commission for the Visually Handicapped.

Nominees for board member-at-large and third vice president respectively of the National Conference on Social Welfare are NAC board members James G. Haughton, M.D. and Melvin A. Glasser. Dr. Haughton is executive director, Health and Hospitals Governing Commission and director, Cook County Hospital, Chicago. Mr. Glasser is director, Social Security Department, United Auto Workers of America.

NEW STANDARDS MAY BE PURCHASED IN BRAILLE

Since last spring Standards for Production of Reading Materials for the Blind and Visually Handicapped has been available in braille through the regional libraries of the Library of Congress. Now, braille readers who would like to have their own copies of this book of standards may purchase them from NAC at \$5.00 each (or \$4.50 if your order is prepaid).

The supply is limited so act now!

IDEAS FOR YOUR ANNUAL REPORT

Because one of the requirements of accreditation is that an agency or school should issue an annual report for the public, several agencies have asked NAC where they might get guidance in developing such reports inexpensively. We have three suggestions - (1) check with your local council of social agencies for advice and examples; (2) ask some of the local agencies in other areas of health and welfare to put you on their lists to receive copies of their annual reports; (3) subscribe to the services of the nonprofit National Public Relations Council of Health and Welfare Services. For information about these services, write the executive director of the Council which is at 419 Park Avenue South, New York, N. Y. 10016.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR - ANNUAL MEETING

Friday, June 23 and Saturday, June 24 are the dates; the Deauville Hotel, Miami Beach is the place. A business session will be held on the afternoon of the 23rd followed by a reception. The second session will be the Awards Dinner on the 24th. It will be preceded by a reception.

This schedule makes it possible to combine attendance at the Annual Meeting with attendance at other meetings to be held during the weekend. In particular, participants in the Symposium-Workshop on Confidentiality (see below) will be able to attend the Awards Dinner.

If you are a member of the Association for Education of the Visually Handicapped you'll note that these meetings immediately precede the AEVH biennial conference which will be held in the same hotel.

CONFIDENTIALITY OF RECORDS

Today many questions are being raised about the use of confidential information in the files of agencies and schools. Some are asking for guidance in applying the principles of confidentiality set forth in the NAC standards.

As a step in this direction, NAC will sponsor a symposium-workshop on the handling of confidential information on students in residential schools, June 24, 25 in Miami Beach. It will explore the variety of factors - professional, legal and ethical - that should be taken into account in developing a sound and practical policy.

To help make the workshop as useful as possible NAC would welcome suggestions from readers of The Standard-Bearer. What problems of confidentiality have you encountered? How have you solved them? What procedures to protect confidentiality do you maintain?

Information brought out at the symposium will be reported in The Standard-Bearer. Your advance cooperation can help make it more useful to you and others. Write Mrs. Belle Wiggins, Research Associate, NAC.

IN MEMORIAM: MARY E. SWITZER

At the meeting of the Board of Directors of the National Accreditation Council on December 7, 1971, the Board adopted a resolution expressing their sorrow at the death of their fellow Board member, Mary Elizabeth Switzer. The resolution concluded: "We are grateful that we were given the opportunity to know and to work with Mary Switzer. We believe that her best memorial will be our zeal in continuing and extending the program of the Council which she helped to bring into existence."

AWARD TO NAC

Top rank for Best Press Release in Dialogue magazine's first public relations competition for agencies serving the blind has been awarded to the National Accreditation Council. William O. McGill, executive director, The Chicago Lighthouse for the Blind, accepted the award on behalf of NAC at Dialogue's Annual Award Dinner, January 16, 1972. The Lighthouse is an accredited member of NAC.

SEND FOR THESE FREE MATERIALS

If people ask you "What are the benefits of accreditation once you've got it?" reprints of two recent articles may give you the answers you need.

Answers to Accreditation Questions, reprinted from the New Outlook for the Blind, gives the advantages of accreditation with respect to general agency operations, financial support, and personal and professional effectiveness.

Fringe Benefits of Accreditation for Residential Schools, also a reprint from the New Outlook, is by Geraldine T. Scholl, Ph.D., professor in special education, University of Michigan. It summarizes benefits that schools obtain from the self-study and shows how these benefits will continue into the future.

Of special interest to tax-supported agencies is another reprint, this one from the October, 1971 issue of Rehabilitation Literature. It is:

Accreditation: Key to Survival and Financing of Government Rehabilitation Programs in the 70's by Warren Thompson, assistant regional director, Welfare Reform Planning Staff, Department of Health, Education and Welfare, Region VIII, Denver.

Copies of all these reprints are available from NAC free on request. Just drop us a card stating which reprints you want, and how many.

CONSULTATION FOR ACCREDITATION

Special help is available for agencies and schools that want to begin their self-studies but would like guidance in getting started...and also for agencies and schools that have started but have run into snags.

For on-the-spot consultation and advice, the field staff of the American Foundation for the Blind will give priority to requests from institutions seeking NAC accreditation. For this help, call or write your regional AFB office or Mrs. Doris Sausser, American Foundation for the Blind, 15 West 16th Street, New York, N.Y. 10011.

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No. 15

Summer 1972

PETER J. SALMON ELECTED NAC PRESIDENT



FABIAN BACHRACH

Peter J. Salmon, LL.D., was elected president of the National Accreditation Council at the meeting of the Board of Directors, June 24, 1972, in Miami Beach, Florida. He succeeds Arthur L. Brandon of Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, who continues as a member of the Board. Dr. Salmon has been associated from its inception with the concept of accreditation as a way of improving services for blind people. He was a member of the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on Accreditation which recommended in 1963 the appointment of an independent commission to formulate standards for agency administration and service programs and to establish an ongoing organization to administer a nationwide system of voluntary accreditation based on those standards. He later served on that commission, which came to be known by its acronym COMSTAC.

When the National Accreditation Council was launched in 1967, Dr. Salmon agreed to be a member of its first Board of Directors. Most recently he has served as first vice president.

Dr. Salmon earlier this year was appointed chairman of the new National Advisory Committee on the Blind and Visually Handicapped set up by HEW Secretary Elliott L. Richardson, following the reorganization of the Rehabilitation Services Administration, HEW. Leading organizations of and for the blind are represented on the committee.

Dr. Salmon is administrative vice president of the Industrial Home for the Blind, Brooklyn, New York. He recently celebrated 55 years of association with IHB.

A graduate of Perkins School for the Blind, with special training in working with the deaf-blind, Dr. Salmon has been a leader in obtaining better educational and rehabilitation services for the deaf-blind. He is the director of the National Center for Deaf-Blind Youths and Adults, New Hyde Park, New York.

Daniel D. Robinson, partner, New York Office, Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Co., CPA's, was elected a vice president. Mrs. Claire W. Carlson, head of her own consulting engineering firm, New York City, was elected treasurer. Reelected officers were J. Kenneth Cozier, Cleveland, and Frederick G. Storey, Atlanta, vice presidents; Mrs. Edwin D. Campbell, Carlisle, Massachusetts, secretary.

Reelected to the Executive Committee were John W. Ferree, M.D., Pleasantville, New York; Richard E. Hoover, M.D., Baltimore, Morton Pepper, New York City; McAllister Upshaw, Detroit.

TRIBUTE PAID TO BRANDON

The NAC Awards Dinner following the Board meeting in Miami Beach was the occasion for a series of tributes to Arthur L. Brandon, chairman of COMSTAC and president of NAC for the first five years of its existence.

Peter J. Salmon, incoming president, announced that the Board had voted unanimously to designate Mr. Brandon president emeritus. This title was bestowed on Mr. Brandon in recognition of his unique historic role in the founding and development of NAC.

Noting that Mr. Brandon had made known his intention not to accept renomination for another term, the Board presented him with an onyx-base clock, pen and pencil set.

The resolution which accompanied the gift cited Mr. Brandon's "far-sighted and inspiring leadership" in the development and codification of the "first nationally accepted comprehensive standards for the structure, management and programs of agencies and schools for the blind and visually handicapped." It also cited his leadership in the development of a permanent independent body to administer the standards and for his successful guidance of NAC through "the challenges that a new organization must face and surmount."

WHO IS A "GRANDFATHER?"

NAC standards have recognized from the beginning that some persons may lack formal academic qualifications but by virtue of mature judgement and rich experience make an important contribution to the field of services for the blind.

On the other hand, NAC expects that when new staff are employed, their qualifications will reflect currently accepted professional levels. However, a person who has been employed in his specialized capacity in an agency or school for the blind for five years prior to September 1, 1972, and who transfers his services to another agency, will continue to be covered by the "Grandfather" clause mentioned above.

LOWENFELD RECEIVES NAC AWARD

The NAC Award for outstanding leadership in raising standards for services to the blind and visually handicapped was presented at the Awards Dinner to Berthold Lowenfeld, Ph.D., of Berkeley, California. Dr. Lowenfeld was cited for his successful efforts in changing public attitudes toward education of the blind and the improvement of standards for educational services to the blind. It was noted that he pioneered in new concepts at a time when most professionals in the field accepted the concept of segregated facilities for most blind children.

STEPS TOWARD A NATIONAL TAPE REPOSITORY

Local agencies that make tape recordings for the blind can greatly extend their effectiveness and render a national service by making sure that their tapes are produced in accordance with NAC standards. Tapes so produced would be suitable for duplication and, through cooperation with Recording for the Blind, could be made available to many more blind persons.

Briefly, the system would work as follows: When a student or teacher requested that a text be recorded, the agency would check with RFB to see if the book were already recorded or in process of being recorded. If recorded, a tape could be obtained from RFB. If not recorded, the agency would proceed to make its recording and send a copy of the completed tape, or reel by reel, to RFB. Records show that each title in RFB's library is circulated among 3.5 students. Thus an agency can count on more than tripling its effectiveness by this method.

Four agencies - Joanna Bureau for the Blind, Talking Tapes for the Blind, Xavier Society for the Blind and Volunteer Services for the Blind - are forming the core of an advisory committee chaired by RFB. The committee will explore other aspects of the development of a national tape repository.

NAC BOARD MEMBERS HONORED

Arthur L. Brandon, president emeritus of NAC, has been elected president of the American Baptist Assembly. Mr. Brandon also is vice president of his alma mater, Alderson-Broaddus College, Philippi, West Virginia.

Robert S. Bray, chief, Division for the Blind and Physically Handicapped of the Library of Congress, has received the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters from Pacific University, Forest Grove, Oregon.

Robert M. Buckley, vice president, Wesley Day & Co., Des Moines, has been elected a director of the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness.

FIVE AGENCIES/SCHOOLS ACCREDITED

Accreditations announced at NAC's Annual Meeting were:

ARIZONA - Tucson
Department for the Visually Handicapped
Arizona State School for the Deaf and the
Blind
Martha Clifford, President, Board of
Directors
Edward W. Tillinghast, Superintendent

GEORGIA - Atlanta
Community Services for the Blind, Inc.
George W. Henderson, Jr., Chairman
Board of Directors
Richard W. Edwards, Executive Director

HAWAII - Honolulu
Services for the Blind Branch
Mrs. Elizabeth Morrison, Administrator
Department of Social Services
William G. Among, Director

NEW JERSEY - Jersey City
St. Joseph's School for the Blind
Sister Patricia Aidan Lynch, CSJ
Chairman, Management Board
Sister Mary Byrnes, CSJ, Administrator

NORTH CAROLINA - Raleigh
The Governor Morehead School
Cecil J. Hill, Chairman, Board of Directors
Samuel J. Cole, Superintendent

STATE AGENCIES FOR THE BLIND JOIN NAC

The National Council of State Agencies for the Blind is the newest Sponsoring Associate of the National Accreditation Council. A complete list of all the organizations that sponsor NAC's work will be found with the revised list of accredited agencies which will be mailed to all Standard-Bearer readers soon.

COMING ATTRACTION

Almost a hundred educators, agency executives, parents of blind children and others took part in the National Accreditation Council's Symposium-Workshop on Confidentiality in Miami Beach, June 24 and 25, 1972. Speakers and group sessions dealt with: Confidentiality and the Law; Confidentiality and the Day Schools; Confidentiality and the Residential Schools; Confidentiality and the Professional.

The Standard-Bearer had promised its readers a report. Now we can announce that instead of a brief summary in these pages, The New Outlook for the Blind will devote an entire supplement to the papers and the discussion. This will give you much more detail than would be possible in a newsletter. Watch for the December issue of The New Outlook. Reprints will be available too.

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~~WIKI~~



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NATIONAL ACCREDITATION COUNCIL

*For Agencies Serving the Blind
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No. 16

Fall 1972

STATE ADMINISTRATORS CALL FOR ACCREDITATION

On September 26, 1972, the Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation adopted the following plan as part of agency policy and standard operating procedures:

"I. By June 30, 1974, all rehabilitation facilities* providing services to clients of State Vocational Rehabilitation Agencies will have:

A. 1. Applied for accreditation to

(a) Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) or

(b) National Accreditation Council (NAC).

2. Received an on-site survey from either CARF or NAC.

3. Outlined written plans (By June 30, 1974) to meet accreditation no later than June 30, 1976,

OR

B. 1. Rehabilitation facilities established July 1, 1973 or thereafter will meet the following conditions:

(a) For the first three years of operation from the date of admission of the first client the facility will meet the standards established or adopted by the State DVR agencies.

(b) During the three year period will apply for accreditation and receive an on-site survey from either CARF or NAC.

(c) Will be accredited by CARF or NAC by the end of the fourth year following the establishment date."

NAC will be glad to send information about how to get started in the accreditation process to rehabilitation facilities for the blind on request.

*As defined in Federal Vocational Rehabilitation Regulations.

WHERE DOES YOUR ORGANIZATION STAND?

Agencies and residential schools for the blind are aware of the importance of public relations and fund-raising; they show some of their greatest strengths in the adequacy of their programs in these two areas. Another strong point is staff spirit and dedication.

On the other hand, many agencies should give more thought as to how much they can realistically expect to accomplish, given their financial resources and community needs. Some were found to be offering services that they could not adequately staff or support; others were urged to expand services. Related to this is the widespread need to reach out into the community, to plan with other agencies for comprehensive services.

These are some of the strong and weak points of agencies and schools as revealed in a recent analysis of recommendations of NAC's on-site review teams over the past four years.

Personnel administration and working with volunteers were found to be weak spots in many agencies, as were financial accounting and service reporting. Too many agencies lacked well thought out personnel practices for staff and volunteers and there was a need for better qualified staff. Also lacking were annual reports which included financial data from records kept in accordance with the uniform standards of accounting now used by major health and welfare agencies, and which were incorporated from the beginning in NAC standards.

What does all this mean to agencies and schools that want to qualify for accreditation?

First it suggests that you should read carefully the sections of the Self-Study and Evaluation Guide that relate to Agency Function and Structure, Personnel Administration, and Financial Accounting...no matter what services your agency offers.

Second, if you find that changes should be made, you may want to get some outside consultation, especially on the standards for accounting. Your local council of social agencies should be able to direct you to an accountant who has had experience in helping other agencies install functional accounting methods.

Social and Rehabilitation Service of the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare also can help you get consultation to improve your services. Write for folder: The Technical Assistance Program, Rehabilitation Services Administration, Washington, D. C. 20201.

The Standard-Bearer will continue to bring you information about the most widespread weaknesses and strengths and specific ways to make improvements.

ANNOUNCING AN OPPORTUNITY

A Message From Peter J. Salmon, President

National Accreditation Council for Agencies
Serving the Blind and Visually Handicapped

When does a man decide that it is too late to try to change the world? At 40? 50? 60?

In 1963 Arthur L. Brandon was about to retire from the vice presidency of New York University. As an administrator and educator he was planning to do some consulting in his chosen field and to live quietly with his wife, Peg, in the home they had built in Western Pennsylvania.

Just at that time he got a call from a group of strangers, some of whom were blind. They had heard of Arthur's breadth of vision and ability to bring people and ideas together to produce dynamic action. They were seeking a chairman who could provide effective impartial leadership to something that had never been done before - to develop and codify standards for services to more than a million blind and visually handicapped Americans, and to plan an independent, permanent organization to administer the standards.

Arthur Brandon had spent more than 40 years trying to make the world a better place, through his church and through his career in higher education. He had earned a rest. Yet at an age when other men retire, he welcomed this completely new challenge. He accepted the chairmanship of the ad hoc Commission on Standards and Accreditation of Services for the Blind (COMSTAC).

As a member of the group that had approached Arthur, I saw him bring the work of COMSTAC to fruition in two years instead of the allotted three. As another participant in COMSTAC has written:

"The blend of sage judgement and enthusiastic dedication which he brought to his many-sided role as decision-maker, presiding officer, spokesman, stimulator and active participant created an inspiring climate of commitment which invigorated the total group into making a joint contribution of incalculable value."

According to plan, COMSTAC was succeeded by the National Accreditation Council (NAC) in January, 1967. Once more we turned to Arthur. We persuaded him to accept the presidency of this fledgling pioneer organization.

As a volunteer Arthur gave unstintingly of himself to guide NAC successfully through its first five years. NAC's work became recognized and its program respected nationwide. Agencies and schools that applied the standards and earned accreditation testified that the self-study process had done more than bring about specific improvements in services, it had produced new insights

and new awareness of the need for continuous cooperation in strengthening all types of work for and with the blind and visually handicapped.

Then, this past summer, Arthur asked that his name not be presented for renomination as president of NAC. Reluctantly, the Board agreed to abide by his wish. I was proud and happy to follow him as president of the organization that had grown so vigorously under his leadership.

However I felt that just to follow Arthur as president was not enough. I knew that everyone of us in the field of work for the blind owed Arthur Brandon a special debt of gratitude for turning his back on rest and relaxation and freely dedicating so much of his time in these past nine years to building a new structure that would stimulate better services for blind persons.

But how do you thank a man who seeks no personal reward?

The Board of Directors of NAC believes that many men and women who have felt the inspiration of Arthur Brandon's leadership and have seen the results achieved so far would like to express their appreciation in the one way that would please Arthur Brandon most - by supporting the continuation and extension of the work he has begun.

Therefore, to provide a vehicle for this expression, the Board has now established the ARTHUR L. BRANDON FUND to which contributions may be made to strengthen and apply through NAC the standards Arthur Brandon guided into being.

This message is my personal invitation to you to join us in building this fund. It is not a memorial. It is a living tribute to a living man. Your gift will go to work immediately to help more agencies and schools improve services for blind and visually handicapped men, women and children.

The attached form suggests several ways in which you may choose to participate. Please indicate your preference and send to me in the enclosed envelope.

I look forward to adding your name to our roster of Friends of Brandon.

Dr. Peter J. Salmon, President
National Accreditation Council
79 Madison Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10016

Dear Dr. Salmon:

I want to help further the purposes of the ARTHUR L. BRANDON FUND with my contribution of:

___ \$100 (Sponsor) ___ \$50 (Supporter) ___ \$25 (Contributor) ___ \$_____ (Other)

Name _____
(please print)

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Please make checks payable to ARTHUR L. BRANDON FUND, NAC.
Contributions are tax-deductible.

10/72

STANDARDS OF ACCOUNTING COMMITTEE APPOINTED

Wider adoption of the uniform standards of accounting and financial reporting which are also part of NAC's standards will be stimulated by a new national cooperative effort.

The National Assembly for Social Policy and Development, the National Health Council and United Way of America have set up a joint liaison committee "to encourage and facilitate implementation of the standards throughout the country, to adjudicate questions of interpretation and advise the Boards of the Assembly and the Health Council about changes needed in the present version." NAC will be glad to submit to the committee questions or comments you may have in connection with the application of the standards in the accreditation process.

The appointment of the committee once more highlights the importance of the standards and the need to move ahead as rapidly as possible to implement them.

RECOMMENDED READING

An informative book is Volunteering in Rehabilitation Facilities. Of special interest to administrators and supervisors of volunteer services, copies cost \$2.00 and may be secured from Goodwill Industries of America, Inc., 9200 Wisconsin Avenue, Washington, D. C. 20014.

Free on Request to NAC:

Twenty Steps in the Accreditation Process outlines step-by-step what you do.

The Self-Study Phase of the Accreditation Process is a how-to-do-it on planning your agency or school self-study.

Accreditation: Key to Survival and Financing of Government Rehabilitation Programs in the 70's is a reprint of an article which appeared in Rehabilitation Literature. Thought-provoking comments by Warren Thompson whose governmental experience includes both state and federal posts.

Fringe Benefits of Accreditation for Residential Schools is a reprint of an article written for The New Outlook for the Blind by Geraldine T. Scholl, Ph.D. Staffs of residential schools for the blind that are considering accreditation should find this interesting and helpful.

Accreditation of Services for the Blind - A Board's-Eye View was published in 1969 in Community but it continues to be a lively and useful piece which tells the story of accreditation by a board member to board members. Order enough for your entire board.

AWARD TO NAC PRESIDENT

The Klocke/Martin Award for outstanding service in work for the blind was presented to Dr. Peter J. Salmon, NAC president, on October 3 in New York at the bi-annual conference of the American Federation of Catholic Workers for the Blind.

INSURANCE COMPANIES LOOK AT ACCREDITATION

A group comprising almost all major casualty insurance companies has recently suggested that, in judging the operations of insured agencies, companies consider whether or not a rehabilitation facility is accredited.

Family Service Association of America also reports that it has had an inquiry from an insurance firm concerning the possibility of setting FSAA accreditation as a prerequisite for malpractice insurance coverage.

Such interest may be expected to increase as more insurance companies become aware of the benefits of accreditation.

COMING A LITTLE LATER

In the Summer 1972 issue of The Standard-Bearer NAC announced that the special supplement on the results of NAC's Symposium-Workshop on Confidentiality would appear in the December issue of The New Outlook. We have just been informed that publication of the supplement has been delayed until after the first of the year. The Winter, 1973 issue of The Standard-Bearer will have more details.

TOPITZER, KOHUT JOIN NAC STAFF

Gerald F. Topitzer has joined the staff of NAC as Research Associate. A graduate of Fairfield University, Fairfield, Connecticut, Mr. Topitzer holds a Master of Social Work degree from Columbia University and is currently completing his dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Social Work from that school. He has been a lecturer at the New York University Graduate School of Social Work, social work researcher at Memorial Hospital for Cancer and Allied Diseases, and clinic administrator for the Suffolk County (N.Y.) Mental Health Board.

Anthony F. Kohut has been appointed NAC Staff Associate for development. Mr. Kohut has his B.A. from Fordham and his Master of Social Service from Fordham School of Social Service. He has been a psychiatric social worker with the U. S. Army and was for seven years director of the New York City Veterans' Service Center. He entered the fund-raising field with the professional fund-raising firm, Community Counselling Service. He has planned, organized and managed many campaigns, working, among others, with his alma mater, Fordham. Most recently he has been director of development for Albertus Magnus College, New Haven, Conn.

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the standard-bearer

NATIONAL ACCREDITATION COUNCIL

*For Agencies Serving the Blind
and Visually Handicapped*

79 Madison Avenue • New York, N. Y. 10016 • (212) 683-8581

No. 17

Winter 1973

NAC ACCREDITS THREE MORE

Dr. Jack W. Birch, chairman of NAC's Commission on Accreditation, has announced the accreditation of three additional agencies. They are:

The Jewish Guild for the Blind, New York, N. Y.
Aubrey Mallach, Executive Director

Recording for the Blind, Inc., New York, N. Y.
Donald Staley, Executive Director

Service to the Visually Impaired
State of South Dakota
Howard H. Hanson, State Director

There are now 47 accredited agencies and schools in 29 states and the District of Columbia. They serve 75,000 men, women and children.

Recording for the Blind, in addition, is a "first." It is the first organization to be accredited under the new Standards for Production of Reading Materials for the Blind and Visually Handicapped. NAC's original standards did not cover this area. Now that standards are available, a number of agencies that have as their main purpose the production of such materials are eligible to apply.

It should be noted that, originally, when Recording for the Blind was not eligible for accreditation, it served as a Sponsor of NAC. Sponsors are organizations - national, state or local - which are not subject to accreditation and which want to associate themselves officially with the movement to improve services for blind Americans. When NAC develops standards that cover such organizations' operations, however, they can no longer be accepted as Sponsors. The Board of NAC feels that it would not be in keeping with NAC's own standards to accept Sponsors' dues from agencies that are in fact eligible to qualify for accreditation.

CONFIDENTIALITY AND THE SCHOOLS

Just in time to help both agencies and residential schools with the growing problems of who should have access to confidential information comes a 17-page supplement to the February, 1973 issue of The New Outlook for the Blind. The subject matter will also provide the theme for the specially designed cover of the magazine.

"Confidentiality and the Schools" will be a report of the Symposium-Workshop on Confidentiality held by NAC in connection with its Annual Meeting last summer. Although the workshop dealt primarily with problems of confidentiality in residential schools for the blind, much of the information and many of the suggestions are applicable to agencies serving any type of handicapped person.

Reprints will be available. Information on how to order will be sent out as soon as reprint plans are completed.

QUALITY CONTROLS FOR SERVICES FOR THE BLIND - DO THEY MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

This was the theme of a report by Daniel D. Robinson, NAC Vice President, to Sponsors and friends of NAC at a luncheon in the fall of 1972.

Mr. Robinson, a partner in Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Co., Certified Public Accountants, presented the first of what will be a series of assessments of the impact of NAC. The survey covered 32 agencies, six tax-supported and 26 voluntary, which had applied NAC's standards to their operations and submitted comprehensive self-study reports before December 31, 1971. They serve about 50,000 of the more than 75,000 men, women and children served by NAC-accredited agencies. School reports will be covered in a later survey.

The agencies reported that they had made or were in process of making 557 changes in function and structure, personnel administration and social services (the three elements covered in the survey). Actually, they reported 633 improvements; 76 were omitted from the final count because these changes were not necessarily the direct result of the application of the standards.

It was stressed that although the results were heartening there is still a long way to go. For example, NAC standards stress the need for agency follow-up to see what is happening in the short run and the long run to the people they serve. Relatively few reports of plans for such follow-up have been received. However, the NAC system calls for agencies that have earned accreditation to make annual progress reports and they are re-reviewed every five years at the longest. The standards themselves are subject to regular review and updating. Thus avenues to more improvement are always open.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

As the Standard-Bearer goes to press we are happy to be able to announce the appointment of Richard W. Bleecker, Ed. D., as Associate Director of the National Accreditation Council effective February 12, 1973.

For the past six and a half years Dr. Bleecker has been Director of the State of Arizona Division of Rehabilitation for the Visually Impaired.

In Arizona Dr. Bleecker has worked closely with organizations of the blind and other citizen groups to assure that the DRVVI would have both an understanding of the needs and the capability to meet those needs. The DRVVI was accredited by NAC in 1971.

At NAC Dr. Bleecker will initially concentrate on working with the Commission on Accreditation which develops policies and methods to improve the accreditation process and make decisions as to the granting or withholding of accreditation.

Dr. Bleecker has received citations of merit from two Arizona Governors: from Samuel Goddard in 1966 and Jack Williams in 1968. Both were for his services in rehabilitation planning. He also received a certificate of award from the Arizona Manpower Coordinating Committee "in recognition of outstanding service in the development of the Arizona Cooperative Manpower Plan."

A native of Newton, New Jersey and a member of the family for which Bleecker Street in New York City is named, Dr. Bleecker holds the Bachelor of Science degree from Union College, Schenectady and the Master of Science and Doctor of Education degrees from the University of Arizona, Tucson.

Dr. Bleecker has been a member of the Executive Committee of the National Council of State Agencies for the Blind and a member of the Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation.

He is a member of the American Association of Workers for the Blind and a Charter Member of the Arizona chapter. In addition, he holds membership in the National Rehabilitation Association, the American Personnel and Guidance Association and the American Rehabilitation Counselor Association.

He is married to the former Susan Attix of Garden City, New York. They have two children, William Gray, 9, and Rebecca Anne 7.

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THE ANSWERS SHOULD BE "YES"

Based on facts reported by Mr. Robinson, here are some questions for agencies and schools now working toward or planning to start work on accreditation:

Do you have a clear statement of what your agency is trying to accomplish, especially in relation to unmet needs of local blind people?

Do you have a plan and program of action to build stronger working relationships with other community groups in order to assure blind persons' participation in a full range of services and activities?

Do you prepare budgets and make financial reports to the public in accordance with the uniform standards of accounting and financial reporting nationally recommended for health and welfare agencies?

Do you have procedures for handling all incoming funds to provide adequate controls at each step of the process? For instance, the person who opens the mail should not be the person who keeps the official record of receipts.

Don't let lack of adequate statements, plans and procedures delay your accreditation!

BRANDON FUND EVOKES WARM RESPONSE

Since the announcement of the fund to honor Arthur L. Brandon, NAC's first president, through support of NAC's work, gifts and pledges amounting to \$12,815 had been received at press time. Contributions have come not only from the men and women who had worked with Mr. Brandon on NAC and the Commission on Standards and Accreditation of Services for the Blind (COMSTAC) but also from many who have known Mr. Brandon in other capacities.

The fund remains open, providing an opportunity not only to honor Arthur Brandon but also to help get an important job done.

The Board of NAC gives its thanks to all who have contributed or pledged.

To those who have not yet contributed the Board extends a cordial invitation to join the roster of Friends of Brandon. All gifts are tax deductible.

DONALD W. FLYNN

Donald W. Flynn of Providence, Rhode Island, president of the Rhode Island Association for the Blind and Board member of NAC since the spring of 1970, died of a heart attack on Monday, January 8, 1973.

In informing the Board of Directors of Mr. Flynn's death Dr. Peter J. Salmon, president of NAC wrote:

"Don's death is a great loss not only to NAC but also to the entire field of service to the blind. He was president of the Rhode Island Association for the Blind, one of the first three agencies to be accredited by NAC and one acknowledged to be among the leaders in this country.

"Although he was increasingly busy as an officer of the Rhode Island Hospital Trust National Bank, he always found time for his work for and with blind people.

"He served as chairman of NAC's Committee on Bequests, guiding us in telling the NAC story to trust officers. He was also a member of the Nominating Committee.

"To everything he did he brought his gifts of leadership, keen insights, and enthusiasm. I know we shall all miss him greatly."

ROBERT S. BRAY RETIRES

In announcing his retirement as Chief of the Library of Congress Division for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, December 11, 1972, Robert S. Bray has also asked NAC to accept his resignation as a member of the Board of Directors and of the Commission on Accreditation.

NAC does so with great regret and with deep appreciation of the contribution Mr. Bray has made not only to the formulation of NAC's standards for library services but also to the establishment and development of NAC itself as part of his concern for better services for blind people nationwide.

Mr. Bray believed blind and visually handicapped persons should have the widest possible access to reading materials. He served as chairman of the Committee on Large-Print Materials of NAC's project to develop standards for production of reading materials in braille, large print and recorded form and served as a member of the project's Committee on General Policies and Principles. He made the standards widely available to braillists and recorders certified by the Library of Congress.

NAC joins his many friends in wishing Bob Bray a long and happy retirement.

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NATIONAL ACCREDITATION COUNCIL

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No. 18

Summer, 1973

A STATE AGENCY AND A SCHOOL ACCREDITED

At its June meeting the Commission on Accreditation granted accreditation to:

Vocational Rehabilitation For The Blind
State of Mississippi
Jim L. Carballo, Director

Wisconsin School for the Visually Handicapped
Janesville, Wisconsin
William H. English, Superintendent

This brings the number of accredited agencies and schools to 49 in 30 states and the District of Columbia; they serve more than 140,000 men, women and children.

NEXT: REACCREDITATION

At NAC's Annual Meeting on June 30, 1973, Wesley D. Sprague, vice-chairman of the Commission on Accreditation, introduced and discussed proposed principles and policies on reaccreditation. He noted that reaccreditation, like the original accreditation, is intended to

- 1) promote high quality of service
- 2) recognize agencies which meet nationally accepted standards
- 3) safeguard the client and the potential client
- 4) protect the community
- 5) provide a guide to groups and individuals considering financial support to an agency.

In addition, Mr. Sprague pointed out, reaccreditation is the process by which accredited agencies review their goals and assess their achievements and failures in terms of the outcomes they sought.

MEASURING SERVICE OUTCOMES

Following Mr. Sprague's presentation at the Annual Meeting, Daniel D. Robinson showed how the accountability and outcome measurements used in other fields are applicable to programs serving blind people. Mr. Robinson noted that there are four basic management functions:

Planning - looking to the future, developing statements of purpose and objectives, developing resource requirements;

Operating - implementing plans on a daily basis;

Controlling - constant monitoring of the behavior of the enterprise as it conducts its activities;

Evaluating - reviewing results of the other three management operations to understand and assist in future planning.

NAC standards call for the application of sound management principles, including measurement of outcomes, Mr. Robinson declared. Without such measurements agencies may unknowingly persist in unproductive or even harmful activities. He listed three kinds of phenomena for which measurements should be established:

Input - the human, physical and financial resources which are brought to bear upon a given problem or task;

Process - the ways in which the various inputs are organized to carry out the task, i.e., the use of available resources in functioning programs;

Output - the outcomes of the processes or functioning programs.

Mr. Robinson pointed out that, although effective measurements of outcomes are difficult to develop they must be developed if we are to have intelligent organizational thinking and proper allocation of resources. Profit-making firms are confronted with challenges that are comparable to those confronting social service organizations. Merely measuring profit and loss is not enough in a time when any business decision can have complex social and environmental consequences. NAC reaccreditation will stress the need to measure outcomes and to evaluate agency/school progress in terms of outcome.

In the discussion which followed, several points were made:

1. An agency must establish its own goals against which to measure outcomes. The applicability of the standards is

determined in part by the agency's statement of philosophy and program objectives.

2. Participation by users of services and the community at large is helpful in the development of standards and the evaluation of outcomes, as well as in other agency activities. This is not a substitute for but in addition to the necessary professional judgement and evaluation.
3. The period of time for which an agency is accredited is based on careful consideration of many factors, especially: the agency's strengths and weaknesses in relation to the standards; the agency's awareness of what improvements are needed and its resolve and ability to make the improvements; the impact of agency operations on the people it serves.

Since the Annual Meeting approved the general reaccreditation policies, NAC would welcome comments and suggestions from readers of The Standard-Bearer - especially concerning experience in developing reliable measurements of the outcomes of agency/school services.

NAC AWARD TO MISS HOOPER

At NAC's Annual Meeting Miss Marjorie Hooper, editor, American Printing House for the Blind, received the 1973 NAC Award for her outstanding leadership in raising standards of services to blind and visually handicapped persons.

More than 100 persons attended the dinner at which Miss Hooper (who has since retired from APHB and become chief executive of the National Braille Association) was cited for a lifetime of creative activities and especially her work in opening up communications through improvements in braille and large-type books.

WHAT KINDS OF AGENCIES CAN APPLY FOR ACCREDITATION?

On June 21, 1973 the Commission on Accreditation approved a revised statement of policies. This statement modifies the previous definition of agencies eligible to be considered for accreditation. The definition of eligibility now includes generalized agencies which, among their other services, provide services for blind and visually handicapped persons - provided certain criteria are met. The definition also makes provision for separate accreditation of one unit of a larger agency for the blind and visually handicapped, provided certain criteria are met.

The full policy statement on the new eligibility criteria is enclosed with this issue of The Standard-Bearer.

ROBINSON, OTHER OFFICERS, ELECTED

Daniel D. Robinson, partner, Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Co., New York, was elected president of NAC at the June Board meeting. Mr. Robinson had previously served as vice president and as treasurer.

Also elected were: Huntington Harris, McAllister Upshaw, Howard H. Hanson, vice presidents; Mrs. Adele D. Campbell, secretary; Mrs. Claire W. Carlson, treasurer. Mr. Harris is director, Quadri-Science, Washington, D. C.; Mr. Upshaw is executive director, Greater Detroit Society for the Blind; Mr. Hanson is state director, South Dakota Service to the Visually Impaired; Mrs. Campbell is a civic leader, Carlisle, Mass.; and Mrs. Carlson is an engineering and legal consultant, New York City.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS ELECTED

In accordance with the system of Board rotation a number of members of the Board of Directors were not eligible for reelection at this year's Annual Meeting. New members elected to replace those who rotated off include:

W. Harold Bleakley, marketing executive, Schaumburg, Illinois;
William T. Copping, director, Virginia Commission for the Visually Handicapped;
Dr. John M. Crandell, Jr., associate professor of educational psychology, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah;
Floyd Hamman, president, Hamman-McFarland Lumber Company, Phoenix, Arizona;
John P. McWilliams, Jr., assistant treasurer, Morgan Guaranty Trust Company, New York, N. Y.;
Howard H. Hanson, state director, South Dakota Service to the Visually Impaired;
George W. Henderson, Jr., vice president, Burlington Industries-Galey & Lord, Atlanta, Georgia;
Julius D. Morris, attorney, New Britain, Connecticut;
Hon. Robert Riley, lieutenant governor, State of Arkansas;
Louis H. Rives, Jr., director, Operations Division, Office for Civil Rights, DHEW.

REPORT ON CONFERENCE ON CONFIDENTIALITY

Single copies of the report of the Symposium-Workshop on Confidentiality held by NAC last year are available free on request to NAC as long as our supply holds out. If you need more than one, let us know; we may be able to provide a few more.

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The following Policies, plus any amendments adopted by the Board of Directors from time to time, govern the operations of the Commission on Accreditation.

1. Definitions

- 1.1 "Agency" refers to any organization, institution, school, workshop, or center - whether governmental or voluntary - eligible to be considered for accreditation and membership in the National Accreditation Council for Agencies Serving the Blind and Visually Handicapped, Inc. (NAC).
- 1.2 "Standards" are those adopted by the Board of Directors of NAC.
- 1.3 "Commission" refers to the Commission on Accreditation.
- 1.4 "Council" refers to NAC.
- 1.5 "Board" refers to the Board of Directors of NAC.

2. Eligibility

- 2.1 Any corporation, trust, unincorporated association or governmental organization is eligible to be considered for accreditation or re-accreditation and membership in the Council if it provides one or more services, within the United States, its territories and possessions, or such legal entities of the United States providing such services outside the United States, for which standards and accreditation procedures have been adopted by the Council's Board.
 - 2.1.1 A generalized agency providing services for blind and visually handicapped persons provides those services through a specially designated division, or employs a coordinator of such services, or maintains a standing committee concerned with the coordination and delivery of such services.
 - 2.1.2 A generalized agency providing services for blind and visually handicapped persons is subject to all of the Council's applicable standards for administration and service programs.
 - 2.1.3 A generalized agency providing services for blind and visually handicapped persons must demonstrate a commitment to the maintenance of high quality services to such persons by allocating funds to hire qualified staff who meet the Council's standards as reflected in job descriptions, which include professional training and experience requirements.

- 2.2 A unit of a larger agency for the blind and visually handicapped is eligible to apply for accreditation or reaccreditation and membership if it meets the requirements listed in Section 2.1 and the criteria identifying a separate agency for accreditation purposes adopted by the Council's Board. These are:
- 2.2.1 The name, location and function of the applicant unit are unique to that individual unit so that there is no confusion about what service or services would be accredited.
 - 2.2.2 The unit has its own budget, prepared and managed by the unit administrator.
 - 2.2.3 The line authority of the unit administrator is clearly defined in a written job description which reflects a significant role in policy making.
 - 2.2.4 The parent agency's administrator, with the approval of the chief officer of its governing board or other suitable authority, authorizes the application.

National Accreditation Council
79 Madison Avenue
New York, New York 10016



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Fall 1973

WHAT DO YOU SUGGEST?

With the guidance of the Commission on Standards, revision of selected NAC standards is scheduled to get under way this winter.

Although work will begin with standards for which revisions seem most immediately desirable, your comments and suggestions for updating any standard or group of standards are welcome at any time.

NAC will also be glad to receive your recommendations of resource persons who might be consulted or invited to participate in the standards review because of their special expertise.

A sample of accredited and unaccredited agencies will be asked to appoint committees to review the standards also. The committees will include public members as well as users of services and members of agency staffs and boards of directors.

If you are the executive of one of the agencies invited to participate in this sample you'll be receiving a letter from NAC. But regardless of whether you receive a letter or not, NAC wants your suggestions.

General comments or unsupported statements are not very useful in standards revision. In sending your comments - in writing, please - you should be specific: indicate which standards you are referring to and include documentation to support your recommendations.

The COMSTAC Report, which contains the standards, is available in braille and recorded form through the Library of Congress. In inkprint it may be found in many local libraries. Those who would like to own their own braille copies of the Standards for Production of Reading Materials only may obtain them from NAC for \$2.50. This is the same as the price for the inkprint edition.

Your interest and participation in this project will help to insure national standards that are up to date and relevant to the needs of blind persons.

NEW IMPETUS FOR ACCREDITATION

Evidence of the growing support for accreditation in improving rehabilitation services comes from the National Easter Seal Society for Crippled Children and Adults and from Goodwill Industries. The Society has taken the position that by 1975 a minimum requirement for affiliation with it will be compliance with its standards or application for accreditation by CARF (Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities). By 1977 CARF accreditation will be required. Goodwill Industries took a similar stand, but specified a 1976 target date, comparable to that already set by the Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR).

CSAVR's plan states that rehabilitation facilities providing services to CSAVR clients should qualify for accreditation by NAC or CARF (whichever is appropriate) by June 30, 1976.

NAC BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO MEET

The winter meeting of the directors of the National Accreditation Council is scheduled for December 12 and 13, 1973, at the Prince George Hotel, New York City.

In accordance with its general policy of openness, the Board encourages input by individuals and groups who have a determinable interest in the welfare of blind persons as it may be affected by the National Accreditation Council. Therefore, although the Board meetings are not open for general observance by non-Board members, every reasonable consideration is given to requests for special purpose appearances at or presentations to meetings of the Directors.

If you have a specific matter which you wish to present to the Board, please send a summary with your request to: President, National Accreditation Council, 79 Madison Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10016. For possible inclusion on the agenda of the 1973 winter meeting, your proposal should reach NAC no later than November 15, 1973.

DR. SALMON HONORED

Dr. Peter J. Salmon, NAC Board member and former president, has received the National Award of the American Federation of Catholic Workers for the Blind. The citation stated in part: "Together, the man, Peter J. Salmon, and his philosophy, have brought about new and lasting services to blind people throughout the world."

A PERSONAL BENEFIT OF ACCREDITATION

A recent order form listing new books from Columbia University Press included the following note: "Teachers at Accredited institutions are entitled to a 10% professional discount."

RECOGNITION TO NAC MEMBERS

Roy Kumpe, executive director of Arkansas Enterprises for the Blind, a NAC-accredited agency, has received the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws from the University of Arkansas. Dr. Kumpe was cited for his years of outstanding service to blind persons. Among many other achievements he served on the national committee which developed NAC's standards for rehabilitation facilities.

William T. Coppage, director, Virginia Commission for the Visually Handicapped, has been named to Personalities of the South by the American Biographical Institute. Mr. Coppage heads the first state agency for the visually handicapped to be accredited by NAC. He is currently vice chairman of NAC's Commission on Standards.

NAC BOARD MEMBER IS PRESIDENT-ELECT OF NCSW

Melvin A. Glasser, recently reelected to NAC's Board of Directors, was also chosen by members of the National Conference on Social Welfare as their president-elect 1973-74 and president 1974-75. Dr. Glasser is director, Social Security Department, International Union, United Auto Workers of America. He was dean of university resources at Brandeis University before joining the staff of the UAW.

NCSW NOMINATES LOURIE

Another member of NAC's Board, Norman V. Lourie, has been nominated by the National Conference on Social Welfare for the position of present-elect 1974-75 and president 1975-76. Mr. Lourie is deputy secretary, Department of Public Welfare, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. He is a past president of the National Association of Social Workers

NAC APPOINTED TO PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE

Harold E. Russell, chairman, has announced the appointment of NAC as an organizational member of the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped. Alexander F. Handel, NAC's executive director, will be NAC's official representative on the Committee.

Each member of the Committee is committed to the belief that the handicapped should have equal opportunity to choose and prepare for occupations commensurate with their abilities and their potentialities for learning and acquiring skills; and that the handicapped should have equal opportunity, with others similarly qualified, in selection, employment and advancement in employment.

Committee members pledge themselves to the support of practical programs designed to translate these beliefs into action. They advise the Federal government regarding programs to implement the beliefs.

WHO'S WHO ON NAC'S BOARD

When some of our readers tell us they think it would be interesting to know more about the backgrounds of the men and women who are NAC's directors, The Standard-Bearer is happy to oblige. This issue will begin with NAC's president, Daniel D. Robinson.

Mr. Robinson is a partner in the accounting firm of Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Co. in New York City. Earlier, he was vice president for business management of New York University, his alma mater.

Mr. Robinson helped to develop the standards for financial management and service reporting of the Commission on Standards and Accreditation of Services for the Blind (COMSTAC). In 1969 he joined NAC's Board and has been vice president and treasurer of NAC.

A specialist in the accounting - and the planning for accountability - of non-profit organizations, Mr. Robinson serves as instructor at the College Business Management Institute of the University of Kentucky. He is chairman of the Committee on College and University Accounting and Auditing of the American Institute of C.P.A.'s. Mr. Robinson is listed in Who's Who in America.

OCCUPATIONAL INFORMATION LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND

The Greater Detroit Society for the Blind, a NAC-accredited agency, has received a grant to establish an occupational information card catalogue system for the blind. The project aims to provide a viable resource for more appropriate career selection and varied employment opportunities for persons with serious visual impairment. It will also develop a mechanism for periodic up-dating with minimum need for overall revision.

The library card file system will be comprised of two basic units: (1) an occupational literature file (about 1000 cards) listing all available literature on training, placement, and employment of the blind; and (2) a job description file (about 500 names) covering job titles, DOT codes, job descriptions, educational requirements and special training and job modifications, if any. Periodic supplements will be issued.

The initial system should be available in early 1974, at an estimated cost of \$50 per set. For further information contact the Occupational Information Library, 1401 Ash Street, Detroit, Michigan, 48208; phone (313) 964-1224.

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Winter 1974

NOW THERE ARE 53 ACCREDITED AGENCIES AND SCHOOLS

Dr. Jack Birch, chairman of the Commission on Accreditation, has announced the accreditation of four more agencies as of December 14, 1973. They are:

Blind Association of Western New York
Buffalo, New York
Clophos F. Bulleigh, Executive Director

Lancaster County Branch, Pennsylvania Association for the Blind
Lancaster, Pennsylvania
Mrs. Marion R. Campbell, Administrator

New Hampshire Association for the Blind
Concord, New Hampshire
Gale N. Stickler, Executive Director

Sacramento Society for the Blind
Sacramento, California
Tom Ryan, Executive Director

The New Hampshire Association and the Sacramento Society are first to be accredited in their states. NAC now has 53 accredited members in 32 states and the District of Columbia.

POTENTIAL FOR GOOD INCREASES SIX-FOLD

At NAC's Board of Directors December meeting, President Daniel D. Robinson reported that what NAC does is important to more than six times as many people as the founders realized...not because blindness has increased so greatly but because the American Foundation for the Blind has now compiled solid evidence that the number of blind and visually handicapped Americans is actually about 6.4 million instead of about one million.

AGENCY BENEFITS - PRE-ACCREDITATION

At the Board meeting Mr. Robinson also noted that about 75 agencies were working toward accreditation at the end of 1973 compared to 50 at the end of 1972.

"Sometimes," he said, "an agency which has tried very hard doesn't make it the first time...but...even agencies that don't make it have made substantial improvements and they're determined to make more until they qualify."

Mr. Robinson cited a letter from an agency working toward accreditation:

"...We feel we have improved tremendously from the self-study portion of the accreditation and now the results of the on-site visitation team have given us the recommendations and suggestions to further our efforts in improving our agency and its ability to deliver effective services..."

"Whatever the decision of the National Accreditation Council, we feel through the process of self-evaluation and the advice gained from the on-site visitation team our agency and staff are functioning much more effectively and efficiently."

NEW YORK WORKERS FOR BLIND URGE ACCREDITATION

At its conference in the fall of 1973 the Board of Directors of the New York State Federation of Workers for the Blind (New York State Chapter of the American Association of Workers for the Blind) adopted a resolution urging:

"all agencies and specialized schools providing services for blind persons in New York State to utilize the standards and to seek to achieve accreditation from the National Accreditation Council for Agencies Serving the Blind and Visually Handicapped at the earliest possible date."

The preamble to the resolution noted that the NYSFWB has sought to improve standards of service to blind people since its founding in 1915. It also noted that the Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation has called for all rehabilitation facilities providing services to clients of state vocational rehabilitation agencies to achieve accreditation by June 30, 1976, or the end of the fourth year after the agencies' establishment date.

The resolution has been distributed to all NYSFWB member agencies.

It is hoped that other state AAWB chapters will find it useful in drawing up their own resolutions in support of accreditation as a way of improving standards of services. Copies of the full text may be obtained from The Standard-Bearer.

CONFERENCE CALLS FOR ACCREDITATION

The report of the national conference on Planning Services for the Blind for the Decade of the '70's recommends that "all government funding of agencies in the Decade of the '70's be based on the accreditation of the unit by nationally recognized accreditation agencies." NAC was specifically mentioned as such an accrediting agency.

The dean of the Graduate College and the head of the Department of Blind Rehabilitation, Western Michigan University, directed the conference which was supported by the Rehabilitation Services Administration of DHEW. Leaders in work for blind people from all parts of the country attended. They included members of national organizations made up of users of agency services, as well as professionals in the field.

ANOTHER FIRST FOR NAC

At its December, 1973 meeting, the NAC Board of Directors adopted a pioneering resolution which extends and makes more explicit NAC's policy of openness. By this resolution NAC becomes, so far as it can determine, the first and only national voluntary agency which officially opens its Board meetings to observers from other national organizations that may be interested in sending such observers.

POGORELC HEADS NCSAB

Robert L. Pogorelc, administrator, Oregon State Commission for the Blind, has been elected president of the National Council of State Agencies for the Blind. In his letter of good wishes, NAC's president, Daniel D. Robinson wrote:

"We are proud that the NCSAB is a Sponsor of NAC and we want to work with you as closely as possible to reach our common goal of better services for all blind Americans."

CSAVR ELECTS COPPAGE, POLLARD

NAC Board member William T. Coppage, and the chairman of NAC's Long Range Planning Committee, C. Owen Pollard, have been elected to the Board and Executive Committee of the Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation. CSAVR is composed of administrators of general vocational rehabilitation programs as well as state agencies having responsibility for vocational rehabilitation programs for visually handicapped persons. Mr. Coppage is director, Virginia Commission for the Visually Handicapped and Mr. Pollard is director, Maine Department of Health and Welfare.

HELP CLEAR AWAY THE MIST

In his semi-annual report to NAC's Board, President Robinson declared:

"Because of the impact of NAC in improving services throughout this country, it becomes even more important to bring the message of NAC to the broadest possible constituency. We have a big job to do because accreditation, like any modern advance, may be misunderstood or only dimly perceived."

Mr. Robinson noted that when NAC insists that blind people have a right to service from qualified, professionally competent agencies, this can be very threatening to some tradition-bound people. He added: "All kinds of people need to understand what accreditation is and that it works for people and with people to achieve improvements in voluntary and tax-supported services."

"Each one of us has a responsibility to tell this story wherever and whenever we can, but NAC's administration alone doesn't have the resources to do the job. Our National Leadership Committee, as it gets going, the staff and board members and all accredited agencies and schools, the members of our sponsoring organizations and perhaps more than any others - the people served by accredited agencies - all have a stake in helping others understand how accreditation benefits blind people and the general public. We want to help and encourage all these spokesmen to broadcast the message to all with whom they come in contact."

STANDARDS REVISION SEEKS BROAD INPUT

As announced in the Fall, 1973, Standard-Bearer, NAC is embarking on a step-by-step revision of the present standards. All readers of The Standard-Bearer are invited to send their written specific comments and suggestions for changes, additions, and deletions.

NAC is directly contacting interested organizations, including organizations of users of services, to participate. This is one aspect of NAC's effort to develop plans for increasing client-user involvement. Basic information about the structure, size, and potential program interests of organizations of blind persons is also being sought as a guide to what other types of consumer involvement and cooperation may be practicable and effective.

DON'T FORGET TO REMEMBER

A legacy or bequest to NAC enables you to continue to help blind Americans in the years to come. It is deductible from your estate for tax purposes.

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NATIONAL ACCREDITATION COUNCIL

*For Agencies Serving the Blind
and Visually Handicapped*

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No. 21

Summer 1974

THREE MORE AGENCIES ACCREDITED

The NAC Commission on Accreditation on May 29, 1974, accredited the following agencies:

Florida Bureau of Blind Services
Tallahassee, Florida
Donald Wedewer, Chief

Guiding Eyes for the Blind
Yorktown Heights, New York
Donald Z. Kauth, Executive Director

Raleigh Lions Clinic for the Blind
Raleigh, North Carolina
Russell G. Broadbus, Executive Director

Fifty-five agencies and schools in 33 states and the District of Columbia have now received accreditation. They embrace about 150 separate installations in more than 100 communities. They include rehabilitation centers, a dog guide school, clinics, residences for men and women, camps, sheltered workshops, libraries, publishing facilities, elementary and secondary schools. Eight are state rehabilitation agencies.

NAC WELCOMES NEW SPONSOR

The Arkansas Chapter of the American Association of Workers for the Blind became a Sponsor of NAC in early April, 1974. On May 18 the Arkansas Chapter adopted a resolution commending the already accredited agency and school in Arkansas and urging unaccredited agencies in the state "to move ahead with due speed toward utilizing the standards to improve services and facilities and to seek accreditation by the National Accreditation Council for Agencies Serving the Blind and Visually Handicapped at the earliest possible date."

ARKANSAS CONSUMER AFFILIATE ENDORSES NAC

The Arkansas Council of the Blind, an affiliate of the American Council of the Blind, on April 21, 1974 adopted a resolution noting that "mutual benefits are derived through the process of accreditation for blind persons, professionals serving the blind, agencies and schools serving the blind and the community", commending the two accredited institutions in Arkansas and urging other blind-serving agencies to utilize the standards and seek to achieve accreditation.

DVH URGES ACCREDITATION

In April, 1974, the Division for the Visually Handicapped of the Council for Exceptional Children passed a resolution endorsing "the goals, objectives, structure and continuous self-evaluation of the National Accreditation Council." In the resolution the DVH further urged agencies and residential schools providing services to blind persons to "recognize the value of the standards in upgrading their programs and to seek accreditation by the National Accreditation Council."

NAC'S FIRST PRESIDENT HONORED

Arthur L. Brandon, first president of NAC, received the honorary degree of Doctor of Humanities from his alma mater, Bucknell University, on June 2, 1974. Bucknell's citation noted particularly Mr. Brandon's service to blind Americans through NAC.

CSAVR PRESIDENT-ELECT IS NAC BOARD MEMBER

C. Owen Pollard, director, Bureau of Rehabilitation, Maine Department of Health and Welfare, has been chosen president-elect of the Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation. Mr. Pollard, a member of NAC's Board of Directors, is chairman of NAC's Long Range Planning Committee.

COZIER AND JOHNSON RECEIVE NAC AWARDS

The NAC Award for outstanding leadership in improving standards of service for blind and visually handicapped persons was presented on May 30, 1974 to J. Kenneth Cozier, Cleveland industrialist, and J. Arthur Johnson, executive director, Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind, Washington, D. C. In accepting his award, Mr. Johnson stressed the long cooperation between the General Council of Workshops for the Blind and the National Accreditation Council in developing standards and self-study guides for sheltered workshops. He noted that 30 workshops were accredited as of May 1, 1974 and that 16 more had applied or were in process of qualifying. Mr. Cozier expressed confidence that the standards would continue to bring improvements in services for blind people and that NAC's work would be increasingly strengthened.

OHIO RSC ADOPTS ACCREDITATION POLICIES

The State of Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission has adopted a policy applying to all rehabilitation facilities providing services to clients of the State Vocational Rehabilitation Agencies. By June 30, 1975 all rehabilitation facilities providing such services will have applied for accreditation to either NAC or the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) or have outlined plans to meet accreditation by June 30, 1977. Facilities established July 1, 1974 or thereafter should be accredited by either NAC or CARF by the end of the fourth year following their establishment date.

DUES TOP CHANGED

On May 17, 1974 NAC's executive director wrote all accredited agencies and schools calling their attention to the fact that present dues of accredited institutions meet only about 20% of the actual cost of administering and maintaining the accreditation program (exclusive of the cost of helping agencies achieve first accreditations and the cost of revising and developing new standards). It was also pointed out that donors who provide NAC's major support have questioned the relatively small part of NAC's support being provided by accredited agencies. However, NAC's Finance Committee recognized the importance of keeping accreditation costs as low as possible so they would not be a barrier to agencies seeking to qualify.

The executive director reported the following recommendation would be made to the Board of Directors: that the basic dues rate of 1/20th of one percent of operating expenditures (exclusive of capital outlays) be continued but that the top level of annual dues that might be paid would be raised from \$500 to \$630. This would entail no change in dues paid by agencies and schools with operating expenditures of one million dollars or less annually.

At its meeting on May 31, 1974, the Board approved this higher maximum for agencies with more-than-million dollar expenditures. The change is scheduled to go into effect as of the start of each such agency's fiscal year that begins on or after January 1, 1975.

NAC'S REPORT DUE IN SEPTEMBER

Because of the change in NAC's fiscal year from the calendar year to a year beginning July 1 and ending June 30, the Annual Report will be mailed out on or about September 1 instead of in the spring. The first report will cover an 18-month period: January 1, 1973 - June 30, 1974 and will contain the auditor's report for that period. Thereafter, reports will cover 12 months. Persons who do not receive the report may obtain a copy on request to NAC.

NAC ELECTS BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

Elected to NAC's Board of Directors at the May 30 Annual Meeting were: Mrs. Joseph Clifford, civic leader, Scottsdale, Arizona; J. Kenneth Cozier, industrialist, Cleveland, Ohio; C. Owen Pollard, director, Bureau of Rehabilitation, Maine Department of Health and Welfare, Augusta, Maine; Reese H. Robrahn, past president American Council of the Blind, Washington, D. C.; Austin G. Scott, director, Dallas County Association for the Blind, Dallas, Texas.

At its meeting on May 31 the Board reelected: president, Daniel D. Robinson, partner, Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Co., New York City; vice presidents - Huntington Harris, director, Quadri-Science, Inc., Leesburg, Virginia; McAllister Upshaw, executive director, Greater Detroit Society for the Blind; Howard H. Hanson, assistant program administrator, South Dakota Office of Service to the Visually Impaired; and treasurer, Mrs. Claire W. Carlson, civic leader, engineering and legal consultant, New York City. John P. McWilliams, Jr., assistant treasurer, Morgan Guaranty Trust Company, New York City, was elected secretary.

BOARD MINUTES AVAILABLE

Minutes of any NAC Board meeting may be obtained from NAC at \$2.00 per set.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

The Board of Directors of NAC will hold its next meeting at the Prince George Hotel, New York City, on November 6 and 7, 1974. If you have a specific matter to present to the Board, please send your request to: President, National Accreditation Council, 79 Madison Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10016. For possible inclusion on the agenda your proposal should reach NAC no later than October 7, 1974.

In addition, observers will be welcome at the Board meeting up to the number the room can accommodate. Please let the president of NAC know as soon as possible if you wish to attend as an observer.

NEW AUDIT GUIDE FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE ORGANIZATIONS

Starting with fiscal years beginning after June 30, 1974, auditors will be expected to use the new guide, Audits of Voluntary Health and Welfare Organizations in their audits of clients in these fields. If they do not follow this guide they may be called upon by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants to justify their actions. Copies are available at \$4.00 from AICPA, 666 Fifth Ave., New York, N.Y. 10019. The guide is compatible with the Standards of Accounting and Financial Reporting for Voluntary Health and Welfare Organizations included in NAC's standards.

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No. 22

Winter 1974

NAC STRENGTHENS CONSUMER PARTICIPATION

A special meeting of NAC's members on November 7, 1974 reaffirmed the principle of increased constructive involvement in NAC, at all levels, of blind consumers, especially men and women suggested by national organizations of blind and visually handicapped persons. The members considered reports from the ad hoc Committee for Liaison with National Consumer Organizations, chaired by Board member W. Harold Bleakley, and the ad hoc Committee to Revise the Bylaws, chaired by Vice President McAllister Upshaw, and heard a special report from President Daniel D. Robinson. Then they took the following action:

1. At least one-third of NAC's directors elected each year will be persons who are members of or recommended by national organizations of blind or other visually handicapped persons.

The Board activated this at its meeting the same day by declaring seven vacancies now exist, bringing the Board to its maximum strength of 35. Terms of the positions to be filled would be staggered to bring them into the regular rotation of NAC's Board. The Nominations Committee was directed to request suggestions from national organizations of the blind of qualified persons to fill the vacancies.

2. The Commissions on Standards and Accreditation were directed to review comprehensively their policies and procedures in the light of the principle and report their recommendations at the next Board meeting.
3. The next meeting of the Board will be held within four months rather than six. Election of new Board members and recommendations of the Commissions will be the major items of business at this accelerated meeting.
4. As a matter of policy, the Nominations Committee will henceforth notify national organizations of blind or other visually handicapped persons of Board vacancies and request their suggestions for candidates.

Also as a matter of policy the president of NAC will ask national organizations of blind and other visually handicapped persons to suggest qualified candidates when vacancies on the commissions occur.

5. A revised personnel statement spelled out NAC's commitment to affirmative action in recruiting, placement, and promotion of qualified blind and other visually handicapped persons and other handicapped persons, as well as all others covered by equal opportunity provisions.
6. The Long Range Plan, providing for increased emphasis on working with consumer organizations, was approved.

Official representatives of the three national organizations of blind persons were present and spoke at the membership and Board meetings. The representatives were Durward McDaniel, American Council of the Blind (ACB); David L. Schnair, Blinded Veterans Association (BVA); John Taylor, National Federation of the Blind (NFB).

A motion, made on behalf of NFB, for predetermined quotas on NAC's Board to be filled by representatives of the three organizations, received no second. Representatives of ACB and BVA stated such quotas were not acceptable to their organizations.

NEW ROLE FOR NAC SPONSORS

NAC's Board established a new class of voting Sponsors - organizations of national or international scope having responsibility for quality services to blind or other visually handicapped persons, not eligible to apply for accreditation but wishing to be involved in NAC's work. Upon acceptance as a Sponsoring Member, and payment of dues on the same basis as an Accredited Member, an agency would have one vote at any NAC membership meeting.

Non-voting affiliate membership, for other organizations that wish to be publicly identified as Supporters of NAC's program, may also be granted under the new plan. Minimum dues of Supporters will be \$50 a year.

These two new categories replace the previous single category of non-voting associate members known as Sponsors.

Organizations desiring to apply for Sponsoring or Supporting membership should get in touch with NAC for further information.

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BULLETIN

SUGGESTIONS PLEASE

The review of standards for Financial Accounting and Service Reporting (C-2) and for Sheltered Workshops (D-4) will begin this winter. NAC will welcome your suggestions as to how these standards - or any NAC standards - may be updated and improved to insure that they are relevant to the needs of blind persons. The present standards are available in The COMSTAC Report and in NAC's general Self-Study and Evaluation Guide. Let us hear from you!

FIRST SET OF REVISED STANDARDS COMPLETED

Revised Standards for Physical Facilities have been approved by the NAC Commission on Standards and Board. All readers of The Standard-Bearer were invited to participate in the revision and a number did so in addition to interested national organizations, accredited and non-accredited agencies, users of services, and special interest groups. Joseph Kohn, executive director, New Jersey Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped, was chairman of the national technical committee for revision of these standards. Copies will be available after February 1, 1975 at \$1.00 each.

NEXT NAC BOARD MEETING

The Board of Directors of NAC will hold its next meeting at the Prince George Hotel, New York City, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Thursday, February 27. If you have a specific matter to present to the Board, please send your request to: President, National Accreditation Council, 79 Madison Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10016. For possible inclusion on the agenda your proposal should reach NAC no later than February 7.

Observers will be welcome at the Board meeting up to the number the room can accommodate. Please let the president of NAC know as soon as possible if you wish to attend as an observer.

12/11/74

NATIONAL ACCREDITATION COUNCIL

For Agencies Serving the Blind and Visually Handicapped

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VOCATIONAL SERVICES REVISED

Please React!

Proposed revisions of NAC Standards for Vocational Services have now been drawn up. NAC wants your comments and reactions, your criticisms and suggestions by March 15, 1975.

To obtain a set of the proposed revisions, send 75¢ (no cash or stamps, please) to NAC to cover postage and handling. If you do not have a copy of the current standards, and wish to have them for purposes of comparison, send an additional 75¢ for D6-Standards for Vocational Services for Agencies for the Blind and Visually Handicapped. Please use the order form (see reverse side).

The new draft standards have been developed with the participation of readers of The Standard-Bearer (as invited in the Fall, 1973 issue); representative accredited and non-accredited agencies; national membership organizations of blind persons; special interest groups such as VEWA, NCSAB, etc.; and former members of the committee which developed the original standards.

The technical committee which prepared the new draft is made up of William T. Coppage, director, Virginia Commission for the Visually Handicapped, chairman; Harry E. Hayes, director, Kansas Division of Services for the Blind and Visually Handicapped; The Honorable Reese Robrahn, American Council of the Blind; Harold Richterman, director of Rehabilitation Services, National Industries for the Blind; Mrs. Geraldine Rougagnac, executive director, Lighthouse for the Blind of Houston; Warren Thompson, Rehabilitation Services Administration, Social and Rehabilitation Services, U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, Denver; Donald Wedewer, chief, Florida Bureau of Blind Services; Arnold B. Sax, Ed.D., director of the Materials Development Center, Department of Rehabilitation and Manpower Services, University of Wisconsin - Stout; and Joseph F. Kirstein, director of Rehabilitation Services, Albany Association of the Blind, Inc.

Major changes in the new draft standards include the following:

1. Updating to reflect the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and other pertinent developments in the field of vocational rehabilitation affecting the blind or visually handicapped.
2. A new section on planning for vocational services in order to identify program objectives in relation to agency philosophy and community need. This section identifies major administrative principles specific

to a vocational rehabilitation program.

3. A new section to stimulate the agency to assess benefits to clients, costs and effectiveness of all aspects of its vocational services program.
4. Updating the duties and qualifications of vocational rehabilitation personnel based on current professional practices.
5. More explicit emphasis on close interaction between client and counselor in the significant decision-making steps as well as throughout the vocational services process.
6. Expanded emphasis on involvement of users of services in the planning and evaluation of the vocational service program.

Now is the time to let NAC have your comments and suggestions on the proposed revisions to the standards for vocational services. After your communications have been received and studied the technical committee will prepare its final report to the Commission on Standards.

ORDER FORM

VOCATIONAL SERVICES
DRAFT STANDARDS
AND CURRENT STANDARDS

Commission on Standards
National Accreditation Council for Agencies
Serving the Blind and Visually Handicapped
79 Madison Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10016

Please send me _____ copies of Revised Draft Standards for Vocational Services
@ 75¢ each to cover cost of postage and handling.

Please send me _____ copies of D-6 Standards for Vocational Services @ 75¢ each.

I enclose check for \$_____ (Orders of less than \$5.00 must be prepaid).

Name _____

Organization _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please make check payable to National Accreditation Council.

11/74

GAO REPORT WELCOMED BY NAC, DHEW

The U. S. General Accounting Office has issued a report on NAC which has been greeted with pleasure by NAC and officials of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

Entitled Charges Made By The National Federation Of The Blind Against The National Accreditation Council For Agencies Serving The Blind And Visually Handicapped, the report was requested by Congressman John Brademas, chairman, Select Subcommittee on Education, House Committee on Education and Labor.

Officials of DHEW have indicated that in their opinion the report presents a thorough and objective review of the issues and presents NAC as a respectable and legitimate organization, accomplishing its objectives with a few minor areas of concern. Officers of NAC have stated that the report discloses NAC is doing a job widely recognized by the field as an important contribution to improving services to blind and visually handicapped people.

Individual copies of the report, B-176886, may be obtained from the U. S. General Accounting Office, DHEW, 330 C Street, S.W., Room 1126 South Building, Washington, D.C. 20201.

REGIONAL AND STATE AAWB GROUPS ENDORSE NAC

Members of the Midwest Region, American Association of Workers for the Blind (AAWB) voted at their biennial meeting in late summer to commend NAC for its achievements. They urged all agencies and schools for the blind in the region to qualify for accreditation and join with NAC in efforts to review and update standards and improve the accreditation process. The Midwest Region comprises six chapters: Great Plains, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio; and individuals from Indiana, Iowa, and Saskatchewan.

A month earlier the Arizona Chapter, AAWB, adopted a resolution expressing its support of the concept of accreditation and the purpose and goals of NAC. The chapter encouraged NAC to continue its dialogue with all organizations of and for the blind and in particular urged NAC and NFB to pursue their discussions.

PROXY VOTING ABOLISHED

To encourage more direct participation of members in NAC's activities, the membership on November 7 voted to abolish proxy voting at all membership meetings. (There is no proxy voting at NAC Board meetings.)

DOUBLE PLAUDITS FOR NAC'S RETIRING DIRECTOR

On October 24 Alexander F. Handel, executive director of NAC since its founding in 1967, received the Migel Medal for his outstanding contributions as a professional in services for blind persons and particularly for his work with NAC. Generally considered the highest award in the field, the medal is given by the American Foundation for the Blind to one volunteer and one professional annually. Receiving the award in the volunteer category was the senior Senator from New York, the Hon. Jacob K. Javits.

On November 6 friends, family and colleagues gathered at dinner to pay tribute to Mr. Handel in advance of his December 31 retirement. Following a message from President Daniel D. Robinson, NAC's first two presidents, Arthur L. Brandon and Dr. Peter J. Salmon, spoke of Mr. Handel's vision and leadership in developing and guiding NAC. Mrs. Claire W. Carlson, NAC's treasurer, presented a gift from many friends and a specially made plaque from the Institute Loaiza Cordero for Blind Children in Puerto Rico.

IOWA ACB CALLS ON COMMISSION TO SEEK ACCREDITATION

The Iowa Council of the Blind, ACB, by resolution at its convention this past summer called on the Iowa Commission for the Blind to secure accreditation to insure that Iowa blind citizens receive service on an equal basis with those provided by accredited agencies throughout the rest of the nation.

NAC BOARD MEMBER HONORED

Board member Julius D. Morris, New Britain, Connecticut, received the Irving Diener Award for outstanding service to the Blinded Veterans Association. Past national president of BVA, practising attorney, and member of the State legislature, Mr. Morris is known as an advocate of the rights of veterans and blind persons.


NAC JOINS COUNCIL OF SPECIALIZED ACCREDITING AGENCIES

Earlier this year NAC became a member of the Council of Specialized Accrediting Agencies. The Council is a voluntary association of "nationally recognized accrediting agencies" designated as such by the U. S. Office of Education, DHEW. The membership of the Council includes 40 accrediting organizations covering fields ranging from architecture to veterinary medicine.

YOUR COMMENTS, PLEASE!

See the enclosed insert announcing the draft of the revised standards for Vocational Services - and please use the order form to get your copy so you can send us your comments by March 15, 1975.

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Spring 1975

EIGHT AGENCIES EARN REACCREDITATION

Dr. Jack W. Birch, chairman of the Commission on Accreditation, has announced that as of the end of 1974, eight agencies in seven states had qualified for and been awarded reaccreditation. They are:

Arkansas Enterprises for the Blind, Little Rock
The Hadley School for the Blind, Winnetka, Illinois
The Maryland School for the Blind, Baltimore
Massachusetts Association for the Blind, Boston
Cincinnati Association for the Blind
The Cleveland Society for the Blind
Rhode Island Association for the Blind, Providence
Virginia Commission for the Visually Handicapped



In addition, reviews of nine more agencies are scheduled for the period through June 30, 1975. Reviews of others have been scheduled and will be scheduled on a regular basis for agencies successfully completing five years of accreditation.

Dr. Birch expressed pleasure that the restudy of reassessment of the agencies revealed continuing improvement clearly identifiable as resulting from the stimulus of applying NAC standards in the accreditation process.

COMMISSIONS EXPAND CONSUMER INPUT

Dr. Geraldine T. Scholl, chairman of the Commission on Standards, has reported that the Commission reviewed its policies in the light of the NAC Board directive to seek ways to expand consumer participation. Policy changes will include:

A new preamble stresses the broad input in all NAC's standard-setting and identifies sources such as organizations of blind and visually handicapped persons and other consumers along with agency staffs and boards, professional organizations, special interest groups, and interested citizens.

NAC is a nonprofit organization supported by voluntary contributions, grants, and dues.

A special definition of "consumer" for purposes of Commission operations, adopted also by the Commission on Accreditation, states that "consumer" refers to an individual who (1) is, was, or would have been eligible for some service from an agency or school for the blind and visually handicapped or (2) is a member of an organization of blind or visually handicapped persons the primary purpose of which is the welfare of its members, or (3) represents the consumer by virtue of a relationship (e.g. parent) or by designation of an appropriate organization or individual consumer.

Policies for Commission operations have been revised to insure the broad consumer input called for by the preamble.

The Commission on Accreditation has adopted policy changes calling for:

(a) stronger consumer participation in agencies' self-studies (the first step toward qualifying for accreditation);

(b) inclusion of persons nominated by national organizations of blind and visually handicapped persons on the roster from which are drawn participants in the on-site teams that review agencies applying for accreditation;

(c) more detailed provision for involving a variety of groups in the on-site visit - interviews with members of organizations of the blind, community planning and funding bodies, higher administrative authorities, purchasers of agency services and other cooperating institutions;

(d) encouraging agencies that have not achieved accreditation on their first attempt to share the Commission's decisions with consumers and others who can help the agencies improve their services and thereby qualify for accreditation.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORTS

On February 27, 1975, making his first report to the Board as executive director, Dr. Richard W. Bleecker stressed that the theme of his administration would be the maintenance of standards and accreditation functions that recognize the dignity and celebrate the potential of all blind persons.

Dr. Bleecker hailed the actions of the Board and Commissions in strengthening consumer involvement in NAC. He expressed his confidence that NAC would continue to move forward to strengthen its services to blind people.

MEMBERSHIP AND BOARD TO MEET NOVEMBER 1975

Accepting the invitation of six Arkansas organizations and agencies, NAC's Board has announced that the 1975 Annual Membership Meeting will be held at the

Camelot Inn, Little Rock, Wednesday, November 12 and the Board will meet the following day in the same place. Persons desiring to attend, or wishing to suggest agenda items are requested to notify NAC's president not later than October 1.

NEEDED - NEW STAFF MEMBER

NAC's Long Range Planning Committee has called attention to the fact that NAC has a staff member whose job is to work with the Commission on Standards in the development and updating of standards; NAC also has a staff member whose job is to work with the Commission on Accreditation in reviewing agencies' self-studies, recruiting review teams and setting up on-site visits; but NAC has no staff member assigned to the job of encouraging and helping agencies to qualify for accreditation.

The committee points out that this job would be crucial to many agencies right now because about half of all agencies that apply for accreditation are refused or deferred. These agencies want to improve and would welcome help and guidance in applying the standards.

On recommendation of the Long Range Planning Committee, NAC established a new staff position to have major responsibility for helping agencies for the blind take the steps that can lead to accreditation. A committee of volunteer consultants would work with the new staff member, enabling him or her to develop and maintain productive relationships with such agencies, and also with organizations of blind persons, professional organizations, and other local, state and national groups interested in seeing that blind persons receive quality services.

Job candidates should be academically qualified and have successful experience in service to blind and visually handicapped persons at responsible supervisory or managerial levels, preferably in areas involving relationships with other groups and organizations. NAC is an equal opportunity affirmative action employer.

But - before the job can be filled, NAC must obtain funds for the staff member's salary, travel, and related expenses. NAC is seeking contributions from various sources for this purpose and hopes to be able to provide this new service early in the next fiscal year.

INTERIM REPORT ON ACCREDITATION

NAC's Board on February 17 heard the following progress report: In addition to 55 accredited agencies and schools, five agencies were in deferred status, pending specific improvements; three awaiting on-site visits; 14 engaged in self-studies; 11 planning self-studies; 104 showing interest in moving toward accreditation. Five agencies have been denied accreditation because they can qualify only when they have made fundamental changes in management and services.

NAC ELECTS SEVEN

In accordance with NAC's policy of increasing consumer involvement, seven new members were elected to the Board of Directors at its meeting on February 27, 1975. They are:

Mrs. William G. Derouin, teacher of communication skills and field service representative, Oregon School for the Blind, Salem; president Oregon Council of the Blind. Recommended by American Council of the Blind (ACB).

Hilliard F. Kirby, retired sales engineer, Asheville, N.C.; outstanding Blinded Veteran in the U.S., 1951. Recommended by Blinded Veterans Association (BVA).

Roy Kumpe, executive director, Arkansas Enterprises for the Blind, Little Rock; president, Council of Rehabilitation Centers for the Blind; recipient, Lions International Humanitarian Award 1967-68.

Elizabeth M. Lennon, assistant professor, Department of Blind Rehabilitation, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo; treasurer, Michigan Association of the Blind. Recommended by ACB.

Durward K. McDaniel, attorney and national representative, American Council of the Blind, Washington, D.C. Recommended by ACB.


David L. Schnair, executive director, Blinded Veterans Association of New York; BVA representative to United Nations; member, National Board of Directors, BVA. Recommended by BVA.

Dr. George E. Stocking, counseling psychologist, Veterans Administration Hospital, Miami, Florida; member, advisory council, Florida Bureau of Blind Services; member, board of directors, Florida Association of Workers for the Blind. Recommended by BVA.

In welcoming the new members, President Daniel D. Robinson noted that the National Federation of the Blind (NFB) had been invited to make recommendations but had refused. He added that NFB also continues to refuse all invitations to participate in the reviews of NAC's standards.

Mr. Robinson paid tribute to the interest and cooperation of the American Council of the Blind and the Blinded Veterans Association. He mentioned the fact that NFB's "non-negotiable" demand for ten members on NAC's Board who would be named by and accountable to NFB was unacceptable to ACB and BVA and also contrary to laws governing accountability of Board members in New York State. He again invited NFB to participate in NAC as other groups do, not demanding special status.

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No. 24

Summer 1975

TWO IN ILLINOIS

Dr. Jack W. Birch, chairperson of the Commission on Accreditation, has announced the accreditation of two Illinois institutions. They are:

Illinois Braille and Sight Saving School
Jack R. Hartong, Superintendent

Illinois Visually Handicapped Institute
Thomas J. Murphy, Superintendent

In qualifying for accreditation, the School and the Institute have demonstrated their dedication to continuing improvement in their services to blind and visually handicapped persons.

WELCOME BACK, MISSISSIPPI

At its meeting on May 29, the Commission also was pleased to welcome back to accreditation the Mississippi State Vocational Rehabilitation for the Blind, Jim L. Carballo, Director. This agency had qualified for accreditation in 1973 but had found it necessary to withdraw from accreditation in 1974 because of circumstances within the state. When the circumstances changed, Mississippi promptly requested reinstatement which was granted following a review of its progress to date. In informing Mr. Carballo of the Commission's action, Dr. Birch wrote:

"We welcome the reinstatement of accreditation of the Mississippi Vocational Rehabilitation for the Blind. Our very best wishes are extended on this occasion to all personnel connected with the agency."

JOYFUL MEMORY

Several readers have asked whether NAC will accept memorial gifts. The answer is yes. NAC will gladly notify the person or persons you designate so they may know of the continuing benefits of your tribute to family or friends. You can share other special occasions through a tax deductible gift to NAC, too.

FOUR MORE AGENCIES EARN REACCREDITATION

Accredited agencies continue to demonstrate that accreditation is not a one-time event but part of an on-going process of self-assessment and improvement. The schedule of reviews for possible reaccreditation continues to be heavy.

Latest to qualify for reaccreditation are:

Dallas County Association for the Blind
Austin G. Scott, Executive Director

Ohio State School for the Blind
D. W. Overbeay, Superintendent

Oregon State School for the Blind
Donald H. Edwards, Director

Pittsburgh Blind Association
Mrs. Marcella C. Goldberg, Executive Director

GAO REPORT AVAILABLE IN BRAILLE

The Comptroller General of the United States has announced that a braille edition of the report compiled by the General Accounting Office on charges made by the National Federation of the Blind against NAC is now available to regional and subregional libraries "and other organizations providing services to the blind and visually handicapped."

The report was requested by Congressman John Brademas, Chairman, Select Subcommittee on Education, Committee on Education and Labor, United States House of Representatives.

Inkprint copies may be obtained direct from

U.S. General Accounting Office
Distribution Section, Room 4522
441 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20548

In requesting the braille report from your nearest regional library or the inkprint copy from GAO, please refer to the report number B-176886 and the date, September 27, 1974.

UPDATE ON STANDARDS

DR. HOOVER ACCEPTS

Richard E. Hoover, M.D., Baltimore ophthalmologist and originator of the modern method of cane travel for blind persons, will chair the special committee to review NAC's standards for mobility instructor qualifications announced earlier. He would welcome your comments on the following sections of The COMSTAC Report: S-3, 1.4, 1.5, 2.11 and S-4, 3.13. Also section D-15, pp. 285-286 of the Self-Study and Evaluation Guide for Residential Schools.

NATIONAL REVIEW OF ACCOUNTING AND REPORTING STANDARDS BEGINS

The Committee to Review Standards for Accounting for Services and Finances has developed its preliminary draft based on the comments and suggestions for revision that have been received from the field.

The report relates financial accounting to results in terms of what happens to people. It also stresses standards that relate agency financing to programming developed for and with the persons served. Of course, it includes recent developments such as those embodied in Audits of Voluntary Health and Welfare Organizations, published by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, and Standards of Accounting and Financial Reporting for Voluntary Health and Welfare Organizations, Revised 1974, published by the National Health Council, National Assembly of National Voluntary Health and Social Welfare Organizations, and the United Way of America. The standards are intended to be used as part of agency-wide management planning and evaluation systems.

Two subcommittees worked on the preparation of the draft. Chairman of the Subcommittee for Accounting was Owen R. Davison, Consultant to Funds and Councils, Community Services of Pennsylvania. Other members of this subcommittee are: William Freitag, Certified Public Accountant; Dr. Roy Kumpe, Executive Director, Arkansas Enterprises for the Blind; George J. Mertz, Vice-President - Finance, National Industries for the Blind; and Norman L. Zimmerman, Comptroller, Jewish Guild for the Blind, New York City.

Mrs. Helen W. Worden, Executive Director, Rhode Island Association for the Blind, is chairman of the Subcommittee for Reporting. Other members are: Marie A. Matava, Assistant Director, Massachusetts Association for the Blind; Robert Pogorelc, Administrator, Oregon Commission for the Blind; and Milton Rosenblum, Executive Director, Syracuse (N.Y.) Association of Workers for the Blind.

WORKSHOP SERVICES STANDARDS READY FOR REVIEW

The Technical Committee on Standards for Workshop Services has also met and developed its preliminary draft of revised standards based on comments received

Rudolph Elmer, Executive Director, The Lighthouse for the Blind, Seattle, is chairman and Carl E. Olsen, for many years Director of Lighthouse Industries, New York Association for the Blind, serves as consultant. Other members are: Mrs. Florence Dunn, Chief, Branch of Handicapped Workers, Wage and Hour Division, U.S. Department of Labor; John L. Granger, General Manager, Royal Maid; Frank Hart, Workshop Manager, Virginia Commission for the Visually Handicapped; James G. MacFarland, Assistant Director, Government Marketing, National Industries for the Blind (NIB); Durward K. McDaniel, National Representative, American Council of the Blind; C. Ray Miller, Manager of Shops, Alabama Industries for the Blind; Joseph W. Pike, Executive Director, Albany Association of the Blind; Harold Richterman, Coordinator of Rehabilitation Services, NIB; LeRoy F. Saunders, Executive Manager, Oklahoma League for the Blind; Austin G. Scott, Executive Director, Dallas County Association for the Blind.

USE OF STANDARDS IMPROVES SERVICES , REPORT SHOWS

Strengthening Services For the Blind and Visually Handicapped Through the Application of Standards is the report of the project NAC conducted for eight and a quarter years to develop and test ways of applying standards to improve services in the field of blindness. The project was funded in part by a grant from the Rehabilitation Services Administration, DHEW.

The report describes methods used to assess the effectiveness of the standards in bringing about meaningful and constructive changes in agency services. It also cites the independent assessments of officials and agencies of the Federal government, including the report of a Federal team which paid an on-site visit to NAC, the determination by the U.S. Commissioner of Education that NAC qualifies for his official recognition and the report of the U.S. General Accounting Office mentioned elsewhere in this issue of The Standard-Bearer.

Analysis of the data on agency actions resulting from application of the standards showed hundreds of specific improvements that were directly attributable to the use of the standards. Because the standards call for continuing reassessment and improvement, many additional positive changes were planned. Agencies using the standards were found to make a commitment to a constant striving to do better.

Basic criteria for the application of the standards call for services that recognize the dignity of blind and visually handicapped persons, that involve the users of services in planning and evaluating the services they receive, and that will enable these persons to move into the mainstream of community life. The criteria also call for public accountability of agencies serving the blind -- reporting of actual services and results, and full financial disclosure.

The report found that agencies operating in the spirit of these criteria were able to adapt to changing circumstances not always envisioned in the original on-site team recommendations.

Residential schools modified their programs, originally geared to children with the single handicap of blindness, to encompass a growing influx of multiply-handicapped youngsters.

Agencies developed better records and coordination of services to assure that blind people are not "lost" between their various departments.

Agencies also made such improvements as arranging for a community-based program of physical therapy for those who need it as a prelude to mobility training;

replacing an old industrial arts program with a work evaluation unit and additional training in small business management and medical transcription; providing qualified staff to begin the education of preschoolers.

Almost every agency made its premises barrier-free and safer and set up better safety procedures in line with team recommendations. They also began to use accounting and reporting procedures providing full public financial disclosure.

Many were stimulated to increase the involvement of blind and visually handicapped persons in their planning, evaluation and service delivery.

Although the most complete data were obtained from agencies that applied the standards in the accreditation process, the report also showed that agencies not seeking accreditation successfully used the standards for improvement. For example, 12 workshops, using the standards, have qualified for certification by the General Council of Workshops for the Blind.

As of May 30, 1975, about 200,000 men, women and children in 139 communities of 35 states and the District of Columbia were benefiting from the services of 58 agencies that had qualified for accreditation. Five agencies had had accreditation refused and five were currently deferred until further progress was shown. Others were in the midst of self-studies, reported they were planning self-studies, or were in correspondence with NAC regarding the application of the standards.

TASK FORCE ESTABLISHED

NAC President Daniel D. Robinson has appointed David L. Schnair Chairman of a special Task Force on Promulgating Standards. Mr. Schnair, NAC Board member and Executive Director, Blinded Veterans Association of New York, heads a group of citizen leaders and professionals in the field who will review NAC's experience and current needs and recommend to the Board what kind of new structure, if any, should be set up or what special activities should be undertaken to enable NAC to do this important part of its job more effectively.

In setting up the Task Force, Mr. Robinson noted that NAC has three major jobs: development of standards, promulgation or promoting use of the standards, and conducting the accreditation program. NAC's Bylaws provide for standing commissions concerned with the first and last aspects of NAC's work; the middle aspect currently has no such clearly defined place in NAC's structure, though it is a key element.

The Task Force will make its report to the Board of Directors in November.

Kiss Handley

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DOROTHY DEMERY



the standard-bearer

NATIONAL ACCREDITATION COUNCIL

*For Agencies Serving the Blind
and Visually Handicapped*

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WORKSHOPS AND NAC MAKE NEW ACCREDITATION PLAN

National Industries for the Blind (NIB), The General Council of Workshops for the Blind, and NAC have announced a plan to help all workshops associated with NIB and the General Council achieve NAC accreditation.

A new eight-point memorandum of understanding stresses that a system of accreditation is intended to provide that public and private funds are being used to render needed services which measure up to recognized standards of quality and that NAC is the accrediting agency in the field of work for the blind.

Previously, NIB has granted certification to workshops that utilized NAC standards and self-study materials and submitted a satisfactory self-study report to the General Council. Under the new agreement, the certification program will be phased out in the coming year and NAC will give special recognition to shops that submit completed self-studies as a major step toward accreditation.

If a workshop has already paid its \$100 application-for-certification fee to NIB and applies for NAC accreditation before December 31, 1977, NAC will give it credit for the \$100 already paid and will charge only a \$50 fee. (The regular application fee for agencies seeking accreditation is \$150.)

Significantly, NIB will help workshops meet some of the cost incident to the accreditation process. The travel and per diem expenses of one member of each team visiting a workshop will be paid by NIB rather than the shop.

The plan calls for meaningful participation by consumers in workshop self-studies and on-site visits. It notes that self-study or accreditation is not a prerequisite to receiving allocations of Federal government business.

At the Annual Meeting of The General Council of Workshops for the Blind at which the new agreement was approved, the membership also voted to endorse the preliminary drafts of the revised standards for workshop services and accounting for services and finances. Further progress in revising these sets of standards, due to be made available for use by the field early in 1976, will be reported in the next issue of the Standard-Bearer.

BRADEMAS PRAISES NAC

The Congressional Record for July 17, 1975 carried the following statement by the Hon. John Brademas, chairman, Subcommittee on Select Education of the Committee on Education and Labor of the U.S. House of Representatives:

Through the efforts of NAC, there has been an upgrading of programs serving the blind and visually handicapped that has yielded important results for handicapped citizens.

The statement introduced a report on NAC's history and current progress.

The Congressman, following receipt of a series of allegations against NAC by the National Federation of the Blind (NFB), had requested the General Accounting Office to make a study of the charges. As previously reported in the Standard-Bearer, the GAO report did not sustain the charges. As a result of this and other information about NAC that he studied, Mr. Brademas made his public statement praising NAC.

ACB CALLS FOR NAC SUPPORT

In a resolution calling for oversight hearings by the Congress to investigate the U.S. Rehabilitation Services Administration, the national convention of the American Council of the Blind (ACB) in July indicated its support for a continuing federal grant to NAC.

NAC's executive director, Richard W. Bleecker, Ed.D., was a speaker at the convention. He noted ACB's long record of working with NAC to achieve better services for all blind people and suggested ways in which ACB members could help local agencies improve their services through application of the standards.

BLINDED VETERANS ASSOCIATION HEARS BLEECKER

In August, addressing the national convention of the BVA, Dr. Bleecker hailed BVA's pioneer achievements and its growing cooperation with NAC.

BLIND URGE STATE COMMISSIONS TOWARD ACCREDITATION

NAC has received reports from four state chapters of the American Council of the Blind noting they have publicly urged agencies in their respective states to continue with or initiate efforts to achieve accreditation in order to bring about improvement in services to the blind.

Taking this action were: Arkansas Council of the Blind; Iowa Council of the Blind, which also commended the Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School for achieving accreditation; Michigan Association of the Blind, which also urged the Michigan School for the Blind to seek reaccreditation as scheduled; American Council of the Blind of New York State.

OE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS CONTINUED OFFICIAL RECOGNITION OF NAC

At its meeting December 3-5, 1975, the Advisory Committee on Accreditation and Institutional Eligibility of the U.S. Office of Education recommended that NAC receive continued official recognition "as a nationally recognized accrediting agency for the accreditation of specialized schools for the blind and visually handicapped."

The committee's recommendation calls for recognition to be extended for the full period of four years. It now goes to the U.S. commissioner of education. Under the law, the commissioner must publish a list of accrediting organizations which he determines to be reliable authorities as to the quality of training offered by educational institutions and programs.

To qualify for such recognition, an organization must meet a series of criteria including: a board of directors that is representative of the organization's constituency; sound management and financial base; an adequate number of qualified staff; responsiveness to the public interest and avoidance of conflicts of interest; broad acceptance by educators, educational institutions, practitioners, employers; nondiscriminatory practices; competent evaluators of agencies seeking accreditation; a program that takes into account the rights, responsibilities and interests of students, the general public, the academic, professional, or occupational fields involved, and institutions; fostering ethical practices; maintaining a program of evaluation of its standards to assess their validity and reliability.

The committee reviewed an analysis of NAC prepared by the Accreditation and Institutional Eligibility (AIE) staff. It heard presentations by NAC's president, Louis H. Rives, Jr. and Dr. Bleecker, as well as by NFB.

In his report of the meeting, Dr. Bleecker noted that NFB gave a long "laundry list" of allegations. Typical were the "Kettner case," in which a NAC-accredited agency was attacked, and the "Mississippi agency," which NFB continued to describe as having withdrawn from NAC long after it had applied for and received reinstatement. In addition, NFB charged the AIE staff with bias. This charge the committee also studied carefully.

Dr. Bleecker expressed NAC's gratification that, when all facts were examined, the committee had recommended the extension of the commissioner of education's official recognition for the longest period allowed. The committee also concluded there was no bias on the part of AIE staff.

Seven other accrediting organizations were considered at the same meeting; of these, three were recommended for the maximum time and four for lesser periods.

Dr. Bleecker also called attention to two commendations of NAC by the AIE staff: for its highly qualified personnel which it engages in all facets of its activities (including the public representation on its Board); and its procedures for review of standards, which reach out comprehensively to NAC's diverse constituency.

AAWB BIENNIAL ACTS FOR ACCREDITATION

By unanimous vote at the business meeting in Atlanta, July 23, 1975, the membership of the American Association of Workers for the Blind (AAWB) adopted a resolution of support for all agencies which wish to apply for NAC accreditation urging them "to apply for accreditation forthwith."

AEVH ADMINISTRATORS VOTE SUPPORT

On November 10, 1975, the Administrators' Workshop of the Association for Education of the Visually Handicapped (AEVH) affirmed its endorsement of the value of NAC accreditation and its support of NAC's principles and purposes.

MORE AAWB CHAPTERS TAKE STAND FOR ACCREDITATION

In October, 1975, the Arizona Association of Workers With the Blind and the Michigan Chapter, AAWB, affirmed by resolution their support of NAC and of accreditation to improve services for blind persons. Earlier, the Ohio Chapter, AAWB, had gone on record "as supporting the concept of accreditation of professional individuals and agencies who work in behalf of the blind of the United States."

TWO NEW OFFICIAL NAC SUPPORTERS

The Arkansas Council of the Blind, an ACB affiliate, voted to become an official Supporter of NAC in September of this year. In October, the Arizona Association of Workers With the Blind (AAWB) also voted to become a Supporter. This brings to 15 the number of national and state organizations that have officially associated themselves with NAC as Supporters or Sponsoring Members.

ACCREDITATION AND REACCREDITATION

At its meeting on November 10-11, 1975, the Commission on Accreditation approved the accreditation of Albany Association of the Blind. Joseph W. Pike is executive director of this New York State agency.

Seven accredited agencies and schools were granted extensions of accreditation, having shown the continuous improvement called for in the standards. Agencies are: Atlanta Area Services for the Blind, Robert Crouse, executive director; Shreveport (Louisiana) Association for the Blind, E.J. Robinson, executive director; New York Association for the Blind, Wesley D. Sprague, executive director; Dallas (Texas) Services for Visually Impaired Children, Clark Corliss, executive director. Schools are: Perkins School for the Blind, Watertown, Massachusetts, Benjamin F. Smith, director; Oklahoma School for the Blind, Muskogee, V.R. Carter, superintendent; Tennessee School for the Blind, Donelson, Garland Cross, superintendent.

One agency was dropped from accreditation, another was denied accreditation, and decision on a third was deferred.

NAC'S ANNUAL MEETING HAILS "SPIRIT OF LITTLE ROCK"

A hundred representatives from agencies of and for the blind -- national and local -- attended NAC's Annual Meeting, November 12, in Little Rock. Many stayed to sit in on the Board meeting the following day.

A sampling of opinion showed enthusiastic appreciation of the warm hospitality of NAC's two accredited members -- Arkansas Enterprises for the Blind and the Arkansas School for the Blind -- as well as that of NAC Supporters -- the Arkansas chapters of ACB and AAWB -- and other Arkansans concerned with work for and with blind people. These included the lieutenant governor of Arkansas, who welcomed NAC's members and guests by affirming his hearty endorsement of accreditation as a means of improving services for blind people.

At the close of the meeting, the Spirit of Little Rock had come to mean the renewed determination of all NAC's members and friends to stand up and spread the good word -- about standards, about accreditation, and about NAC.

ANNUAL MEETING VOTES BYLAWS CHANGES

Two changes in NAC's Bylaws were approved by the membership at the Annual Meeting. The first provides that newly elected directors shall assume office upon adjournment of the annual meeting of the Board of Directors. The second amendment makes the Executive Committee consist of the president and other officers, plus two members-at-large. The chairpersons of the Commissions on Standards and Accreditation are ex officio members without vote.

BOARD ACTS ON PROPOSALS

NAC's Board of Directors, meeting on November 13 in Little Rock, took the following actions:

Approved the establishment of a national standing committee to promote knowledge and use of the standards.

Approved an increase in the top level of dues from \$630 to \$1,000. The change will apply to dues based on expenditures for agency fiscal years starting on or after January 1, 1976. The rate at which dues are assessed remains unchanged at 1/20 of one percent of operating expenditures.

Approved holding one, rather than two, regular Board meetings annually.

AUGUSTO APPOINTED TO NAC STAFF

Carl Augusto, formerly with the New York State Commission for the Visually Handicapped, has joined NAC as staff associate. He will work closely with the new national standing committee to promote knowledge and use of the standards.

HOT OFF THE PRESS

The revised standards for Vocational Services are now available as the new Section D-6 of the Self-Study and Evaluation Guide. Individual copies are available at \$1.50. (See order form on next page.)

STANDARDS SET FOR NEXT REVIEW

The Commission on Standards has announced that the next standards to be reviewed and revised will be those for Agency Function and Structure and for Rehabilitation Teaching (currently a unit within standards for Social Services).

Main reasons for the selection are: the changes in the field since the original standards were developed including the proliferation of "umbrella" agencies and the emerging role of professional rehabilitation teachers; increase in technical knowledge related to these areas; and need to incorporate in the standards the knowledge gained by actual experience in their use.

Agency Function and Structure. These standards are basic to responsible agency management. The need to identify the role of the specialized agency for the blind has become more urgent because of the trend to merge services for the blind with other types of human services.

AAWB and the National Council of State Agencies for the Blind (NCSAB) have both pointed out that this trend may in some cases not be helpful to blind people. The importance of an adequate organizational structure was brought out particularly in the 1975 Evaluation of the Organization of State Programs to Serve the Blind (The Mallas Report) commissioned by NCSAB. The Commission on Standards invites all interested readers of the Standard-Bearer to review the present standards (in The COMSTAC Report or Section C-1 of the general Guide) and let NAC have your comments and suggestions by April 30, 1976. The COMSTAC Report is available at many libraries and through the Library of Congress.

Rehabilitation Teaching. The current standards anticipated the growing scope of the job that used to be called "home teaching." The term "rehabilitation teaching", preferred by the teachers themselves, has become widely used through the application of the standards. However, conferences such as the National Workshop on Rehabilitation Teachers in June 1975 have made it clear that rehabilitation teaching is continuing to expand and change as a profession, as is the population of blind people being served. To keep pace with these new developments, the present standards will be reviewed, revised, and published as a separate section. Your comments and suggestions are needed by April 30, 1976. Present standards may be found starting on page 322 of The COMSTAC Report or starting on page 13 of Section D-5 of the general Guide.

NEW DRAFT OF STANDARDS -- COMMENTS, PLEASE

Dr. Richard E. Hoover, chairman of the technical committee for the review of standards for orientation and mobility (O & M) teachers, has announced that revised draft standards are now available for comment and further suggestions from the field.

The revised draft includes six major changes:

- it highlights the role of the trainee in planning, providing and evaluating services;
- it broadens the visual qualification (e.g. 20/40 rather than 20/20 vision with best correction);
- it establishes two levels of O & M employment in agencies;
- it provides uniform standards for O & M instructors in schools, rehabilitation centers and other agencies;
- it recognizes the establishment of certification of O & M instructors as proposed by COMSTAC.

Copies of the new draft standards are available at a cost of 50¢ to help cover handling and postage. See order form below. Please let NAC have your comments on the draft by March 1, 1976.

ORDER FORM

Commission on Standards, National Accreditation Council
79 Madison Avenue, Room 1406, New York, N.Y. 10016

	<u>No. Copies</u>	<u>Total Price</u>
<u>Draft</u> standards for O & M instructors @ \$.50 (for comment)	_____	_____
New edition of standards for Vocational Services @ \$1.50 (for information and use)	_____	_____
	<u>Total</u>	_____

Orders of less than \$5.00 must be prepaid. Please make check payable to National Accreditation Council.

Mail to: _____

(zip)

NAC ELECTS RIVES, OTHERS

Louis H. Rives, Jr. of Little Rock, Arkansas, was elected president of NAC in Little Rock, November 13, 1975. He previously served as a member of the Board. A former head of the DHEW office of services for the blind and visually handicapped, Mr. Rives also had directed the federal office concerned with assuring civil rights of the handicapped. He had joined Arkansas Enterprises for the Blind in 1974 as director of research; just before NAC's 1975 Annual Meeting he was appointed administrator of the Arkansas (state) Office for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

Elected with Mr. Rives were:

- Vice President - Huntington Harris, a director, Harris Banks, Chicago;
- Vice President - Howard H. Hanson, assistant program administrator, South Dakota Office of Service to the Visually Impaired;
- Vice President - Jack W. Birch, Ph.D., professor, School of Education, University of Pittsburgh;
- Secretary- John P. McWilliams, Jr., assistant treasurer, Morgan Guaranty Trust Company, New York;
- Treasurer- Mrs. Claire W. Carlson, engineering and legal consultant, New York.

Elected as members-at-large of the Executive Committee were: William T. Coppage, director, Virginia Commission for the Visually Handicapped, and Morton Pepper, New York attorney and chairman of the board of the Jewish Guild for the Blind.

Elected to NAC's Board were: Dr. Joseph E. Champagne, associate director, Center for Human Resources, University of Houston, Texas; Samuel J. Cole, superintendent, The Governor Morehead School, Raleigh, North Carolina; Robert G. Eagen, president, Cincinnati Association for the Blind; Robert Hampton III, partner, Price Waterhouse & Co., New York; Joseph J. Larkin, executive director, Industrial Home for the Blind, Brooklyn, New York; Mrs. Lawrence M. Levine, Cincinnati, board of directors and immediate past president, National Braille Association; Donald R. Mandich, executive vice president, Detroit Bank and Trust Company; Wesley D. Sprague, executive director, The New York Association for the Blind; Otis H. Stephens, professor of political science, University of Tennessee, Knoxville; Russell C. Williams, Bethesda, Maryland, former chief, Blind Rehabilitation Program, Veterans Administration; Mrs. Helen W. Worden, executive director, Rhode Island Association for the Blind.

John W. Ferree, M.D., M.P.H. 1904 - 1975

The members of the Board of Directors of the National Accreditation Council express their deep sense of personal loss at the death of their fellow member, Dr. Ferree, and their profound sympathy to his family and all his fellow men whose health and well-being he did so much to protect and preserve.

Look for this symbol of quality service

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NATIONAL ACCREDITATION COUNCIL

FOR AGENCIES SERVING THE BLIND AND VISUALLY HANDICAPPED



Symbol of Quality

1974-75 REPORT

July 1, 1974 - June 30, 1975

Accreditation by the National Accreditation Council signifies that an agency or school meets nationally accepted standards for ethical fund-raising, responsible management and quality services to blind and visually handicapped persons.

Involvement and Outreach

by Daniel D. Robinson, *President*

This year I retire from the presidency of the National Accreditation Council. For me the past few months have been a time for reviewing my associations with NAC and the progress I have seen NAC make. It has also been a time for looking ahead — dreaming a little about NAC's future.

If this seems rather personal, I can only say that I have and will continue to have a deep personal commitment to NAC and everything it stands for. That is why I want to take this opportunity to say some things I believe should be said at this time.

First, a little background.

In 1964 Arthur L. Brandon asked me to join a Committee on Standards for Financial Accounting and Service Reporting for agencies serving the blind and visually handicapped. The committee was one of the task forces of a national ad hoc Commission on Standards and Accreditation of Services for the Blind (COMSTAC). Arthur, a former vice president of New York University, was chairman of COMSTAC.

As a citizen and a certified public accountant, I was already aware of the great need for better accounting practices and public disclosure of the financial condition of all agencies and schools that seek either tax or contributed support. I was willing to do what I could to help.

Later I learned how uneven services for the blind could be. And, unfortunately, too many citizens were supporting these services "blindly."

COMSTAC completed its work in 1966. A permanent organization was set up in 1967 to keep the standards up to date, develop new standards as needed, and administer a system of accreditation through which agencies and schools would utilize the standards for continuing improvement. That organization is NAC.

In 1969 I was glad to accept an invitation to join NAC's Board. Since then I have been privileged to serve as NAC's treasurer, as a vice president, and, for the past two years, as president.

I have seen the number of accredited agencies grow from none to 57. Almost 200,000 men, women and children — 30,000 more than last year — in 140 communities of 37 states and the District of Columbia benefit from accredited services provided through 167 separate installations. About half receive rehabilitation services and half prevention of blindness services.

No other accrediting organization I know of has accredited a higher proportion of potentially accreditable units in its first eight years.

In addition, 12 workshops have qualified for certification from the General Council of Workshops for the Blind, using NAC standards. Thirty agencies

are in the midst of self-studies and 13 are planning them. Five have had accreditation refused; six are currently deferred. About 100 are corresponding with NAC about applying the standards.

NAC was the first accrediting body in the field of special education to receive official recognition from the U.S. Commissioner of Education as a reliable authority as to the quality of education or training offered by educational institutions.

Leading organizations of and for blind people publicly sponsored and supported NAC.

Clearly, when I became NAC's president in 1973, NAC was widely respected and moving steadily ahead.

What have we tried to do in the past two years?

If it could be summed up in two words, I think those words would be INVOLVEMENT and OUTREACH.

Many concerned organizations and individuals have cooperated with NAC. We have tried to find, with them, ways in which they can become even more effectively involved. We have also tried, with their help, to reach out to still others.

In particular we have sought ways to involve more blind persons and organizations of blind persons. Of course blind persons and organizations representing them helped to found NAC and have worked with it. Now we have specific policies and procedures to increase this involvement.

The new involvement extends from additional members on NAC's Board right through the revision of standards and participation in the self-studies and on-site reviews of agencies seeking accreditation. The response has strengthened NAC's whole program.

Now for the future. How can standards applied through accreditation bring about even better services for blind people? I believe involvement and outreach will continue to strengthen this effort.

NAC now has a staff member with prime responsibility for helping more agencies and schools use the standards. Involvement and outreach of all concerned persons and groups will be needed if he is to succeed.

For the protection of tax and contributed funds and of the right of blind people to develop their capabilities to the fullest, objective standards of management and programs are needed, should be utilized, and people should know there are such standards.

To increase this use and public knowledge is the challenge to NAC in the coming years.

With its growing number of accredited agencies, with its strong Sponsors, Supporters and friends, and with the leadership of our incoming president, I know NAC will meet the challenge.

Consumers

If all blind persons are to achieve their fullest potential as self-reliant participating citizens, agencies and schools for the blind must offer quality services. That is why, as President Robinson has noted, blind persons and their organizations helped to found NAC and have always worked with NAC.

In 1974, discussions with leading organizations of the blind—the American Council of the Blind (ACB), the Blind Veterans Association (BVA), and the National Federation of the Blind (NFB)—resulted in suggestions for strengthening this involvement.

In view of these suggestions, NAC's members voted that at least one-third of NAC's directors henceforth should be members of or recommended by national organizations of blind or other visually handicapped persons. Also that these organizations be asked to suggest qualified candidates whenever vacancies occur on the Board or Commissions.

In February 1975, thanks to recommendations from ACB and BVA, a slate of seven distinguished candidates was presented to bring the Board to its peak membership. All were elected. Thus at present 18 of NAC's 35 directors are blind.

According to NFB's president, NFB made no recommendations because NAC's members did not agree to NFB's demand for a predetermined quota of

"representatives" who would be elected to NAC's Board but accountable to NFB. ACB and BVA made it clear that quotas of any sort were unacceptable. They also noted that board members of any organization are accountable under law to that organization and cannot, as board members, be responsible to some other group.

NAC continues to invite NFB to participate in all its activities on the same basis as others and hopes it will.

Further steps toward greater consumer input were taken. They include: interviews with local consumers during on-site visits to agencies seeking accreditation; getting help from consumers in upgrading agency services by encouraging agencies to involve consumers in self-studies and to share with them NAC's suggestions for improvement; obtaining consumer suggestions of qualified persons for NAC's national roster of potential on-site team members; inviting national organizations of the blind to join in the review and revision of each set of standards.

NAC's policy is to seek maximum cooperation from all groups that share its objectives. As this policy is carried out, new ways are found to involve not only consumers but many other groups from the great general public to which any accrediting organization is ultimately responsible.

Outcomes

The purpose of applying objective standards through a system of accreditation is to improve services and to safeguard public tax and contributed funds expended for those services. To what extent is NAC achieving this dual purpose?

In April 1975 NAC published the report of an in-depth study which sought answers to this question.

The 67-page report, *Strengthening Services For the Blind and Visually Handicapped Through the Application of Standards*, and a summary inserted in the *Congressional Record* by Congressman John Brademas show that all methods used to evaluate the impact of NAC's efforts support one conclusion: use of the standards in the manner proposed by NAC does bring about recognizable improvements in services as well as in agency management and accountability.

Some examples of frequently made improvements:

Premises were made safer and barrier-free; better safety procedures were set up.

Modern accounting and reporting procedures were installed to safeguard funds and provide for full financial disclosure.

Better records and coordination of services

assured that blind people would not be "lost" between various departments of large agencies.

Agencies involved more users of services in planning, evaluation, and service delivery.

The report tends to confirm that agencies that have qualified for accreditation are not content to remain "good" agencies; the process stimulates them to become better. Their own self-studies and the recommendations of the Commission on Accreditation combine to highlight areas where improvements can be, should be, and subsequently are made by them.

The report also points out that meeting the standards is not easy. Many agencies need much advice and assistance in making the necessary improvements; some even fear to try.

NAC's response to agencies' needs has been to assign, in the new fiscal year, a staff member to assist these agencies.

Meanwhile, the study has revealed that for the first time in the field of services to the blind a quarter of all known agencies have been stimulated to undertake a continuous process of upgrading their operations to do a better job of serving blind and visually handicapped Americans.

Statement of Support, Revenue, and Expenses and Changes in Fund Balances

Year Ended June 30, 1975

	Current Funds		
	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted
Public support and revenue:			
Contributions	\$195,681	\$194,285	\$ 1,396
Revenue:			
Assessments and dues, member units	18,943	18,943	
Interest	10,461	10,461	
Publication sales	2,626	2,626	
Total revenue	32,030	32,030	
Grants from governmental agencies	51,450		51,450
Total public support and revenue	\$279,161	226,315	52,846
Expenses:			
Program services:			
Develop standards	\$ 56,014	55,768	246
Promulgate standards	54,017	2,567	51,450
Accreditation	62,640	62,640	
Total program services	172,671	120,975	51,696
Supporting services:			
Management and general	63,224	62,074	1,150
Fund raising	52,475	52,475	
Total supporting services	115,699	114,549	1,150
Total expenses	\$288,370	235,524	52,846
Excess of expenses over public support and revenue		(9,209)	—
Fund balances:			
Beginning of year		128,955	
End of year		\$119,746	\$ -0-

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

Notes to Financial Statements — June 30, 1975

1—Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Investments are stated at cost.

Pledges of contributions are recognized in the accompanying statements as they are received.

Expenditures for fixed assets are not capitalized and depreciated over the useful lives of the assets acquired, but are charged directly to expense. The amounts involved in fixed asset transactions are not significant.

All contributions are considered available for unrestricted use, unless specifically restricted by the donor.

No amounts for donated materials or services have been reflected in the accompanying financial statements. The amount of donated materials is not significant and no objective basis is available to measure the value of donated services.

2—Board-Designated Long-Term Investment

In prior years, the Board designated funds in the aggregate amount of \$108,989 for long-term investment, and such funds were reported in prior years' financial statements in a separate fund group entitled "funds functioning as endowment." In accordance with the revised standards of reporting for voluntary health and welfare organizations, adopted since its last report, the Council is now reporting such funds as a part of current funds—unrestricted.

On June 30, 1975, the investment consisted of a \$100,000, 5% First National City Bank certificate of deposit maturing on July

17, 1975. It is the intention of the Council to reinvest the proceeds of this certificate upon maturity.

3—Restricted Revenues

Restricted revenues totaled \$52,846 for the year ended June 30, 1975. Of this amount, \$51,450 was received from the Rehabilitation Services Administration to be used for the strengthening of services for the visually handicapped and \$1,396 was received from various donors to defray the cost of meetings and conferences.

4—Pension Plan

The Council participates in the National Health and Welfare Association pension plan, the costs of which are borne by the employer. The plan covers all employees over 25 years of age with more than one year of service. The total expense to the Council for the year ended June 30, 1975 was \$9,445. There are no prior service costs. A contribution of \$11,800 was also made to a special retirement account for a former executive director.

5—Leased Premises

The minimum rental under the lease for the Council's office space is \$15,000 per annum (commencing March 1, 1975), excluding payments for real estate taxes and utilities. The prior lease was at \$18,000 per annum. Such rental costs aggregated approximately \$20,000 for the year ended June 30, 1975. The present lease expires on June 30, 1978.

Statement of Functional Expenses

Year Ended June 30, 1975

	Total	Program Services			Supporting Services	
		Standards			Management and General	Fund Raising
		Develop	Promulgate	Accreditation		
Salaries	\$167,026	\$36,746	\$33,405	\$43,427	\$15,032	\$38,416
Employee health and retirement benefits (Note 4)	26,001	3,124	2,840	3,693	13,078	3,266
Payroll taxes	8,094	1,781	1,619	2,104	728	1,862
Total salaries and related expenses	201,121	41,651	37,864	49,224	28,838	43,544
Occupancy	19,885	4,375	3,977	5,170	1,790	4,573
Telephone and telegraph	5,937	1,191	1,239	1,371	935	1,201
Conferences, conventions, meetings and travel	28,863	5,760	5,195	4,395	13,440	73
Professional fees and contract service payments	15,155		200		14,955	
Equipment and other fixed assets	410		40	23	338	9
Outside printing, art work, etc.	5,871	703	2,990	305	1,079	794
Postage and shipping	2,852	849	513	536	374	580
Subscriptions and reference publications	220	83	50		43	44
Membership dues	491		223		138	130
Supplies	7,148	1,394	1,518	1,609	1,119	1,508
Miscellaneous	417	8	208	7	175	19
Total functional expenses	<u>\$288,370</u>	<u>\$56,014</u>	<u>\$54,017</u>	<u>\$62,640</u>	<u>\$63,224</u>	<u>\$52,475</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

Balance Sheet

June 30, 1975

Assets

Current funds — unrestricted:

Cash

(including \$8,989 designated by the Board for long-term investment)

Cash	\$ 24,385
Accounts receivable	1,878
Pledges receivable	1,750
Prepaid expenses	4,580
Board designated long-term investment (Note 2)	<u>100,000</u>

Total current funds — unrestricted

\$132,593

Liabilities and Fund Balances

Current funds — unrestricted:

Accounts payable	\$ 1,972
Deferred revenue	<u>10,875</u>

Fund balances:

Designated by the governing Board for long-term investment	108,989
Undesignated for general activities	<u>10,757</u>

Total fund balances

119,746

Total current funds — unrestricted

\$132,593

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

To the Board of Directors
National Accreditation Council
for Agencies Serving the
Blind and Visually Handicapped
New York, New York

We have examined the balance sheet of National Accreditation Council for Agencies Serving the Blind and Visually Handicapped as of June 30, 1975 and the related statements of support, revenue, and expenses and changes in fund balances and of functional expenses for the year then ended. Our examination was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, and accordingly included such tests of the accounting records and such other auditing procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

necessary in the circumstances.

In our opinion, the financial statements identified above present fairly the financial position of National Accreditation Council for Agencies Serving the Blind and Visually Handicapped at June 30, 1975, and the results of its operations and the changes in its fund balances for the year then ended, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding period.

HURDMAN AND CRANSTOWN, *Certified Public Accountants*

Toward Greater Outreach

by Richard W. Bleecker, *Executive Director*

NAC's first executive director, Alexander F. Handel, worked closely with NAC's Board and other friends to lay a firm foundation for NAC's future growth as a voluntary organization pioneering in constructive social change. We warmly acknowledge our debt to Alex as we move toward even greater outreach and involvement of still more volunteers.

Who are these volunteers?

First, they are the leaders of more than 100 agencies and schools in all parts of our country who worked and are working to apply the standards to their operations. They can testify that the process of agency self-study and evaluation is a demanding but stimulating exercise that helps produce meaningful results. They have shown their willingness to stand up and be counted in the cause of better services through higher standards.

Then there are the volunteers on the on-site teams. Each visit to an agency seeking accreditation takes about four days. Yet more than 300 busy people have donated their time for this service, 78 in the

past year alone. Many agree to serve again and again because of their commitment to standards of quality.

To keep the standards themselves up to date hundreds of men and women are sharing their professional and personal experiences with our national and local reviews of the standards.

These volunteers include also the national and state organizations that have chosen to stand up and be publicly counted as Sponsoring Members or Supporters. They are organizations of consumers, professionals in the field, specialists in related fields, and citizen groups.

And always we rely on the day-in, day-out leadership of the more than two score men and women on NAC's Board and Commissions.

The use of standards in a national system of accreditation is improving and will continue to improve services for the blind because so many thousands of volunteers are working with and through NAC to make it happen.

Comments

"As in all standard-setting and accreditation processes, the self-study and site-visit activities are providing the catalysts for important improvements in education for visually handicapped children. There are many testimonials to this from accredited schools and from those which are assessing their own readiness to apply for accreditation. If NAC did not exist it would have to be created."

FERNE K. ROBERTS, *President*
Association for Education of
the Visually Handicapped

"Through the efforts of NAC, there has been an upgrading of programs serving the blind and visually handicapped that has yielded important results for handicapped citizens."

HON. JOHN BRADEMAs, *Chairman*
Subcommittee on Select Education
Committee on Education and Labor
U.S. House of Representatives

Resolutions

"...resolved that The Division for the Visually Handicapped of the Council for Exceptional Children endorse the goals, objectives, structure and continuous self-evaluation of the National Accreditation Council and ... urge agencies and residential schools providing services for blind persons ... to seek accreditation by the National Accreditation Council."

From a resolution adopted at the
1974 National Convention
Council for Exceptional Children

"...resolved that the American Association of Workers for the Blind hereby express support for all agencies which wish to apply for accreditation [by NAC], and further, urge them to apply for accreditation forthwith."

From Resolution 1, adopted at the
1975 Biennial Convention
American Association of Workers
for the Blind

Suggested Form of Bequest

I give and bequeath to the National Accreditation Council for Agencies Serving the Blind and Visually Handicapped, Inc., a nonprofit corporation located in New York, N.Y., the sum of _____ dollars (\$ _____) to be used by the Council's Board of Directors as deemed advisable within the corporate powers of such Council.

Suggested Form of Gift

I hereby give to the National Accreditation Council for Agencies Serving the Blind and Visually Handicapped, Inc., a nonprofit corporation located in New York, N.Y., the sum of _____ dollars (\$ _____) to be used for the general purposes of the Council at the direction of its Board of Directors.

Commission on Accreditation

As one of NAC's two operating arms, the Commission on Accreditation decides whether applicants shall be accredited (for a full five years or a shorter period), deferred until improvements are made, or refused accreditation. The Commission also develops policies and procedures for carrying out the accreditation process.

In the past year two agencies received the public recognition of accreditation for the first time, one was reinstated, and 13 qualified for reaccreditation. Comprehensive statistics appear in the president's report.

Accredited agencies include rehabilitation centers, a dog guide school, workshops, libraries, publishing facilities, and special schools. Nine are state rehabilitation agencies providing statewide services.

Members of the Commission in the period covered by this report were:

JACK W. BIRCH, Professor
University of Pittsburgh, School of Education
Pittsburgh, Penna.

Chairperson

FREDERICK A. SILVER, Director
Division of Services for the Blind
Indiana Rehabilitation Services
Indianapolis, Ind.

Vice-Chairperson

NATALIE C. BARRAGA, Professor
Department of Special Education
The University of Texas at Austin
Austin, Texas

HOWARD H. HANSON, Asst. Program Administrator
Office of Service to the Visually Impaired
Division of Rehabilitation Service
Pierre, S.D.

MILTON A. JAHODA, Executive Director
Cincinnati Association for the Blind
Cincinnati, Ohio

RUTH KAARLELA, Assistant Director
Program for Training Rehabilitation Teachers
Western Michigan University
Kalamazoo, Mich.

ELIZABETH M. MALONEY
Assistant Executive Director for Services
The Industrial Home for the Blind
Brooklyn, N.Y.

LOUIS H. RIVES, JR., Research Director
Arkansas Enterprises for the Blind
Little Rock, Ark.

AUSTIN G. SCOTT, Executive Director
Dallas County Association for the Blind
Dallas, Texas

Commission on Standards

Charged with the development and updating of the standards NAC administers, the Commission is one of NAC's two operating arms.

The Commission is conducting a systematic review of each set of standards with the goal of completing at least two sets each year.

In 1974-75 *Standards for Physical Facilities* were revised and published; *Standards for Vocational Services* were revised and have been published as this report goes to press. In addition, reviews of *Standards for Workshops* and *Standards of Accounting for Services and Finances* are under way, as is a special study of Standards for Mobility Instructors.

Priorities are determined by the extent of the technological and social change that has occurred since the standards were originally adopted and reports of experience in applying them.

Members of the Commission in the period covered by this report were:

GERALDINE T. SCHOLL
Professor of Special Education
The University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, Mich.

Chairperson

WILLIAM T. COPPAGE, Director
Virginia Commission for the Visually Handicapped
Richmond, Va.

Vice-Chairperson

JOHN M. CRANDELL, JR., Associate Professor
Department of Educational Psychology
Brigham Young University
Provo, Utah

CLEO B. DOLAN, Executive Director
The Cleveland Society for the Blind
Cleveland, Ohio

J. ARTHUR JOHNSON, Consultant
Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind
Washington, D.C.

DURWARD K. MCDANIEL, National Representative
American Council of the Blind
Washington, D.C.

ROBERT MORRIS, Director
Gerontological Policy Institute
Brandeis University
Waltham, Mass.

DONALD H. WEDEWER, Chief
Bureau of Blind Services
Tallahassee, Fla.

MRS. HELEN W. WORDEN, Executive Director
Rhode Island Association for the Blind
Providence, R.I.

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Lewisburg, Pa.
President Emeritus

DANIEL D. ROBINSON
New York, N.Y.
President

HUNTINGTON HARRIS
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Vice President

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HENRY A. TALBERT
Los Angeles, Calif.

WARREN THOMPSON
Denver, Colo

Executive Director*

RICHARD W. BLEECKER, Ed.D.

*Member, Council of Specialized Accrediting Agencies.
Member, President's Committee on Employment of
the Handicapped.*

*NAC is a not-for-profit organization supported by con-
tributions, grants and dues.*

Contributions to NAC are tax deductible.

National Accreditation Council
for Agencies Serving the Blind and Visually Handicapped
79 Madison Avenue, Suite 1406
New York, New York 10016

(212) 683-8581



*As of June 30, 1975

Printed in U.S.A. 10/75

NATIONAL ACCREDITATION COUNCIL

For Agencies Serving the Blind and Visually Handicapped

79 Madison Avenue New York, N. Y. 10016 (212) 683-8581

TWENTY STEPS IN THE ACCREDITATION PROCESS

1. Interested organization reviews National Accreditation Council standards and self-study instruments and secures authorization from Board or higher administrative authority to file an official application for accreditation. (NAC will provide, at no charge, a descriptive brochure of the accreditation process.)
2. Applicant files an application on form supplied by NAC. Non-refundable fee of \$150 accompanies application.
3. On the basis of information provided on the application form, NAC advises which self-study materials appear to be applicable, and supplies an order form.
4. Applicant orders necessary number of copies of applicable self-study materials.
5. Applicant drafts statement of Philosophy of Service and Program Objectives for approval by its Board or higher administrative authority.
6. Applicant appoints a steering committee to coordinate and give leadership to the work of the subcommittees necessary to review the various aspects of the agency's program.
7. Upon completion of the self study, applicant prepares three copies of self-study report and attachments and submits them to NAC.
8. NAC reviews materials.
 - a. Request additional information if indicated.
 - b. Determines number of people needed to conduct a three day on-site review.
 - c. Draws up a panel from its roster of volunteers from which the review team members will be selected.
 - d. Suggests several possible dates for the on-site review.
9. Applicant is provided with detailed guidelines on the on-site review process, an opportunity to comment on the panel, and an opportunity to indicate preferable dates for the on-site review.
10. NAC extends invitations to volunteers to serve on the team.

11. NAC prepares a list of team assignments and works out a draft of team's work schedule.
12. NAC representative and team chairman make a preliminary visit to applicant to approve the detailed schedule and the mechanics for conducting the on-site review.
13. On-site review team visits the applicant and prepares a written comprehensive and confidential report.
14. Chairman and NAC staff prepare the report for duplication and submit a copy to applicant for verification of factual accuracy.
15. The on-site review report, containing any factual corrections provided by applicant, is submitted to the members of the Commission on Accreditation for study before their next meeting.
16. The application is discussed at the next meeting of the Commission and a decision is made to grant, defer, or deny accreditation.
17. The Commission advises the applicant of its decision and notes major areas in which improvements are recommended.
18. Organization signs accreditation agreement and remits first annual dues.
19. Annually thereafter, the organization submits to NAC a report of progress on the implementation of recommendations made by the Commission on Accreditation and the On-Site Review Team, and on any other significant changes which have taken place.
20. Five years after initial accreditation, the organization applies for reaccreditation utilizing a simplified method of self-evaluation, as established by NAC.

3-72/1 M

Look for this symbol of quality service.....



NATIONAL ACCREDITATION COUNCIL

For Agencies Serving the Blind and Visually Handicapped

79 Madison Avenue

New York, New York 10016

(212) 683-8581

Accredited Members*



as of March 1, 1976

ARIZONA
Phoenix

Section of Rehabilitation for the Blind
and Visually Impaired ('76)

Evan R. Fullmer, Manager

Tucson

Department for the Visually Handicapped,
Arizona State School for the Deaf and
the Blind ('77)

Ralph Hoag, Superintendent

ARKANSAS
Little Rock

Arkansas Enterprises for the Blind ('79)
Roy Kumpe, Executive Director

Arkansas School for the Blind ('76)
J. M. Woolly, Superintendent

CALIFORNIA
Sacramento

Sacramento Society for the Blind ('79)
Thomas C. Ryan, Executive Director

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind ('76)
Charles Fegan, Executive Director

FLORIDA
Tallahassee

Florida Bureau of Blind Services ('76)
Donald H. Wedewer, Chief

GEORGIA
Atlanta

Atlanta Area Services for the Blind ('81)
Robert J. Crouse, Executive Director

**Following the name of the agency or school is the year in which it is next
scheduled for consideration for extension of accreditation.*

SPONSORING MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS

Sponsoring Members

American Council of the Blind (ACB)
Association for Education of the
Visually Handicapped
National Braille Association
National Council of State Agencies
for the Blind

*(Sponsoring Members: organizations of
national or international scope, not
eligible to apply for accreditation,
with responsibility for quality serv-
ices to blind and visually handicapped
persons; they are voting members of
the Council. Supporters: organizations
not eligible to apply for accreditation,
interested in quality services to blind
and visually handicapped persons, and
wishing to be publicly identified with
the Council's work.)*

Supporters

American Association of Workers for
the Blind (AAWB)
American Foundation for Overseas
Blind
American Foundation for the Blind
American Library Association
Arizona Association of Workers with
the Blind (AAWB)
Arkansas Chapter, AAWB
Arkansas Council of the Blind (ACB)
Delta Gamma Foundation
National Industries for the Blind
National Society for the Prevention
of Blindness
New York State Federation of Workers
for the Blind (AAWB)

HAWAII
Honolulu

Services for the Blind Branch ('77)
Mrs. Elizabeth H. Morrison, Administrator

ILLINOIS
Chicago

The Chicago Lighthouse for the Blind ('76)
Fred McDonald, Executive Director

Illinois Visually Handicapped Institute ('80)
Thomas J. Murphy, Superintendent

Jacksonville

Illinois Braille and Sight Saving School ('80)
Jack R. Hartong, Superintendent

Winnetka

The Hadley School for the Blind ('79)
Richard Kinney, President

INDIANA
Evansville

Evansville Association for the Blind ('76)
Frank E. Kern, Executive Director

IOWA
Vinton

Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School ('76)
Charles C. Woodcock, Superintendent

KANSAS
Topeka

Services for the Blind and Visually Handicapped ('76)
Harry E. Hayes, Director

LOUISIANA
Shreveport

Shreveport Association for the Blind ('80)
E. J. Robinson, Executive Director

MAINE
Augusta

Division of Eye Care ('76)
Paul E. Rourke, Director

MARYLAND
Baltimore

The Maryland School for the Blind ('76)
Herbert J. Wolfe, Superintendent

MASSACHUSETTS
Boston

Massachusetts Association for the Blind ('76)
James E. Ryder, Executive Director

Watertown

Perkins School for the Blind ('80)
Benjamin F. Smith, Director

MICHIGAN
Detroit

Greater Detroit Society for the Blind ('76)
McAllister Upshaw, Executive Director

Lansing

Michigan School for the Blind ('76)
Nancy J. Bryant, Superintendent

MINNESOTA
Minneapolis

The Minneapolis Society for the Blind, Inc. ('76)
Jesse H. Rosten, Executive Director

MISSISSIPPI
Hazlehurst

Royal Maid, Inc. ('76)
John L. Granger, Vice President-
General Manager

Mississippi, (con.)

Jackson

Rehabilitation Services for the Blind ('78)
Jim L. Carballo, Director

MISSOURI

Kansas City

Kansas City Association for the Blind ('76)
Mrs. Elva Hayes, Executive Director

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Concord

New Hampshire Association for the Blind ('79)
Gale N. Stickler, Executive Director

NEW JERSEY

Jersey City

St. Joseph's School for the Blind ('78)
Sister Mary Byrnes, CSJ, Administrator

NEW YORK

Albany

Albany Association of the Blind ('81)
Joseph W. Pike, Executive Director

Binghamton

Blind Work Association, Inc. ('76)
J. F. Zinck, Managing Director

Buffalo

Blind Association of Western New York ('76)
Stanley J. Grenn, Executive Director

New York

The Industrial Home for the Blind ('76)
Joseph J. Larkin, Executive Director

The Jewish Guild for the Blind ('77)
Aubrey Mallach, Executive Director

The New York Association for the Blind ('80)
Wesley D. Sprague, Executive Director

New York, (con.)

Recording for the Blind ('77)
Stuart Carothers, Executive Director

Syracuse

Syracuse Association of Workers for the Blind, Inc. ('76)
Milton Rosenblum, Executive Director

Yorktown Heights

Guiding Eyes for the Blind, Inc. ('76)
Donald Z. Kauth, Executive Director

NORTH CAROLINA

Durham

Lions Club Industries for the Blind, Inc. ('76)
Conway Harris, Executive Director

Raleigh

The Governor Morehead School ('77)
Samuel J. Cole, Superintendent

Raleigh Lions Clinic for the Blind, Inc. ('76)
Jim Wells, Executive Director

OHIO

Cincinnati

Cincinnati Association for the Blind ('79)
Milton A. Jahoda, Executive Director

Cleveland

The Cleveland Society for the Blind ('79)
Cleo B. Dolan, Executive Director

Columbus

Ohio State School for the Blind ('80)
D. W. Overbeay, Superintendent

Vision Center of Central Ohio ('78)
Gerard J. De Angelis, Executive Director

OKLAHOMA

Muskogee

Oklahoma School for the Blind ('80)
V. R. Carter, Superintendent

OREGON
Salem

Oregon State School for the Blind ('80)
Donald H. Edwards, Director

PENNSYLVANIA
Lancaster

Lancaster County Branch, Pennsylvania
Association for the Blind, Inc. ('76)
Mrs. Marion R. Campbell, Executive Director

Pittsburgh

Pittsburgh Branch, Pennsylvania Association
for the Blind, Inc. ('80)
Mrs. Marcella C. Goldberg, Executive Director

RHODE ISLAND
Providence

Rhode Island Association for the Blind ('79)
Mrs. Helen W. Worden, Executive Director

Rhode Island State Services for the
Blind ('76)
E. Lyman D'Andrea, Administrator

SOUTH DAKOTA
Pierre

Office of Services to the Visually
Impaired ('77)
Howard H. Hanson, Assistant Program
Administrator

TENNESSEE
Donelson

Tennessee School for the Blind ('77)
Garland Cross, Superintendent

TEXAS
Dallas

Dallas County Association for the Blind ('
Austin G. Scott, Executive Director

Dallas Services for Visually Impaired
Children ('81)
Clark H. Corliss, Executive Director

Houston

Lighthouse for the Blind of Houston ('76)
Robert C. Crider, Executive Director

VIRGINIA
Richmond

Virginia Commission for the Visually
Handicapped ('79)
William T. Coppage, Director

WASHINGTON
Seattle

The Lighthouse for the Blind, Inc. ('76)
Rudolph Elmer, Executive Director

WISCONSIN
Janesville

Wisconsin School for the Visually
Handicapped ('78)
William H. English, Superintendent

LIB



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the standard-bearer

NATIONAL ACCREDITATION COUNCIL

*For Agencies Serving the Blind
and Visually Handicapped*

79 Madison Avenue • New York, N. Y. 10016 • (212) 683-8581

US ISSN 0049-206X

No. 26

Spring 1976

U.S. COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION EXTENDS NAC RECOGNITION

U.S. Commissioner of Education T.H. Bell wrote Dr. Richard W. Bleecker, NAC's executive director, on February 4, 1976:

...Recognition of the National Accreditation Council for Agencies Serving the Blind and Visually Handicapped is hereby continued for a period of four years...

The decision followed an in-depth study of NAC's operations. (See Fall, 1975 Standard-Bearer for earlier report.)

Under the law the commissioner must publish a list of accrediting organizations he determines to be reliable authorities as to the quality of training offered by the educational institutions or programs they accredit.

NAC was the first accrediting body in the field of special education to receive this recognition.

The renewed recognition extends for the longest period allowed by law -- four years.

AFB TO CONTINUE NAC SUPPORT IN ALL POSSIBLE WAYS

In a front-page article in the January 1976 AFB Newsletter, Loyal E. Apple, executive director of the American Foundation for the Blind, pledged continuing support of NAC. Mr. Apple said in part:

...The accreditation process, involving as it does self-evaluation and peer review, is in the best tradition of the democratic process of decision-making by consensus. The AFB believes strongly in such a process and encourages participation by all concerned persons...NAC has made every effort to involve all interested persons, and I appreciate particularly the extent to which it has sought consumer involvement...I hope that all concerned organizations will add their moral (and, if possible, financial) support to NAC's undertaking...

NCSAB VOTES TIES WITH NAC

At the membership meeting of the National Council of State Agencies for the Blind in Washington, D.C. February 8 and 9, 1976, the members voted official "moral and financial" support of NAC by NCSAB. The members also noted that NAC had been responsive to the concerns of state agencies and declared their intention to work even more closely with NAC.

HARRIS HEADS NEW COMMITTEE

NAC Vice President Huntington Harris will chair the new National Committee for Advancement of Standards. This committee was authorized by NAC's Board of Directors in November, 1975. Corresponding in importance to a NAC commission, the committee will have a dual function -- to increase public understanding of NAC's work and to encourage and assist agencies to improve their services by using the standards to qualify for accreditation.

DAVID L. SCHNAIR HONORED

NAC Board member David L. Schnair has received a certificate of meritorious award "in recognition of his outstanding services to his fellow veterans of the State of New York." The certificate was presented to Mr. Schnair by Frank Vado, director, Division of Veterans Affairs, New York State.

NATIONAL CONGRESS OF VOLUNTEERISM AND CITIZENSHIP

George Romney, former governor of Michigan and Cabinet officer, has invited all interested organizations to participate in the National Congress on Volunteerism and Citizenship, 1976. The Congress will focus on what citizen volunteers can contribute to solution of local and national problems. NAC is a participating national organization.

For further information on how your agency can participate write: James I. Luck, Executive Director, National Congress on Volunteerism and Citizenship 1976, 1785 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20036; or call toll-free 800-424-8630.

ANNUAL MEETINGS SET FOR NOVEMBER

The annual membership meeting of the National Accreditation Council for Agencies Serving the Blind and Visually Handicapped will be held on Wednesday, November 17, 1976 in New York City. The regular meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Thursday, November 18. The hotel for the meetings will be announced later.

Persons wishing to attend as observers or suggest possible agenda items, are invited to write to: Louis H. Rives, Jr., President, National Accreditation Council, 79 Madison Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10016. To allow sufficient time for planning, letters should reach Mr. Rives on or before September 30, 1976.

BULLETIN

O & M DEADLINE EXTENDED

The review of revised draft standards for qualifications of orientation and mobility teachers has aroused such interest that the deadline for comments has been extended to May 31, 1976. Dr. Richard E. Hoover, chairman of the technical committee, expressed his pleasure at the broad participation. "We must be sure the standards reflect practical experience of what makes an effective O & M teacher," he said. "We need facts and examples not just opinions."

To order a copy of the draft standards for comment, please use the form below.

ORDER FORM

Commission on Standards
National Accreditation Council
79 Madison Avenue, Room 1406
New York, N.Y. 10016

Please send me:

	<u>No. Copies</u>	<u>Total Price</u>
<u>Draft standards for O&M teacher qualifications</u> (for comment) @ \$.50	_____	_____
<u>New edition</u> , Section C-2, Accounting for Services and Finances @ \$1.50 (for information and use)	_____	_____
<u>New edition</u> , Section D-4, Workshop Services @ \$1.50 (for information and use)	_____	_____

Total cost _____

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(zip)

Orders of less than \$5.00 must be prepaid. Please make check payable to National Accreditation Council.

REVISED STANDARDS FOR WORKSHOPS, ACCOUNTING APPROVED

Mrs. Helen W. Worden, chairperson of NAC's Commission on Standards, has announced that the Commission has approved two more sets of revised standards, bringing the total of revised sets of standards to four. Those just approved are (1) Standards for Workshop Services and (2) Standards for Accounting for Services and Finances.

Workshop Standards

Mrs. Worden noted that, in addition to participating in the workshop standards review, the General Council of Workshops for the Blind has officially adopted the new standards for use by its members. She added that all workshops are being encouraged by National Industries for the Blind to seek accreditation.

Mrs. Worden expressed warm appreciation of the work of the technical committee for workshop standards chaired by Rudolph Elmer, executive director, The Lighthouse for the Blind, Seattle. In each standard revision, the technical committee is the group that brings together comments and suggestions from the many participating individuals and organizations to produce the final document.

Accounting for Services and Finances

Mrs. Worden pointed out that the revised standards stress the importance of accountability in planning and reporting both services and finances. The standards should help agencies relate financing to programs developed with and for the persons served.

Co-chairing the technical committee which developed these standards were Mrs. Worden and Owen R. Davison. They joined in paying tribute to the committee members. Mr. Davison is consultant to funds and councils, Community Services of Pennsylvania.

Order Now!

The revised standards are now official for use in accreditation and reaccreditation self-studies. To order, please use the enclosed form.

CHAIRPERSONS APPOINTED FOR TECHNICAL COMMITTEES

Miss Ruth Kaarlela, assistant director, Program for Training Rehabilitation Teachers, Western Michigan University, will chair the new technical committee for revision of standards for rehabilitation teaching.

McAllister Upshaw and Donald H. Wedewer are co-chairing the technical committee to revise standards for function and structure. Dr. Upshaw is executive director, Greater Detroit Society for the Blind, and Mr. Wedewer is chief, Florida Bureau of Blind Services.

DR. SALMON TO RECEIVE NAC AWARD

Louis H. Rives, Jr., president of NAC, has announced the selection of Peter J. Salmon to receive the NAC Award for outstanding leadership in raising standards of services for blind and visually handicapped persons.

Dr. Salmon was a founder of NAC and served as its second president. He rotated off the Board last November. In his announcement, Mr. Rives noted that, according to NAC policy, the award can not be given to an incumbent officer or Board member. The selection of Dr. Salmon as soon as he became eligible was unanimous.

FOUR REELECTED TO NAC BOARD

Because of space limitations in the Fall 1975 Standard-Bearer the names of three persons who were elected to short terms in March and reelected to full terms on NAC's Board in November were not listed. They are: Dr. Roy Kumpe, executive director, Arkansas Enterprises for the Blind, Little Rock; Miss Elizabeth M. Lennon, assistant professor, Department of Blind Rehabilitation, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo; and David L. Schnair, executive director, Blinded Veterans Association of New York, New York City.

FORMER BOARD MEMBERS HONORED

Citations for distinguished service were presented by the NAC Board of Directors to the directors who rotated off at the November meeting: Arthur L. Brandon, Norman V. Lourie, Daniel D. Robinson, Peter J. Salmon, Geraldine T. Scholl, Henry A. Talbert, Warren Thompson, McAllister Upshaw. A special citation paying tribute to the devoted service of the late Dr. John W. Ferree was sent to Mrs. Ferree.

RIVES APPOINTS PRESIDENTS COUNCIL

NAC's three past presidents -- Arthur L. Brandon, Peter J. Salmon and Daniel D. Robinson -- have accepted the invitation of President Louis H. Rives to become members of a new Presidents Council. Made up of persons who have served as NAC's president, the new Council will advise and assist the current president.

RECEIVED

MAY 21 1976

P. S. S.

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US ISSN 0049-206X

No. 27

Summer 1976

FIVE NEW AGENCIES AND SCHOOLS ACCREDITED

NAC's Commission on Accreditation announces these new accreditations:

Arkansas State Office for the Blind and Visually Impaired
Louis H. Rives, Jr., Administrator

The Association for the Blind of Rochester and Monroe County (New York)
William E. Divens, Executive Director

Clovernook Home and School for the Blind, Cincinnati, Ohio
Gerald W. Mundy, Executive Director

Utah School for the Blind, Ogden
Robert W. Tegeder, Superintendent

West Virginia School for the Blind, Romney
Jack W. Brady, Superintendent

This public recognition signifies that each agency or school meets nationally accepted standards for quality services to blind and visually handicapped persons, responsible management and public accountability.

As of July 15, 1976, there are 63 accredited institutions serving more than 200,000 men, women and children through 188 installations in 157 communities of 39 states and the District of Columbia.

ELEVEN REACCREDITED: TWO EXTENDED

Reaccredited at the same meeting of the Commission were: Arizona Section of Rehabilitation for the Blind and Visually Impaired, E.R. Fullmer, manager; Arkansas School for the Blind, J.M. Woolly, superintendent; Kansas State Services for the Blind and Visually Handicapped, Harry E. Hayes, director; Maine State Division of Eye Care, Paul Rourke, director; Greater Detroit Society for the Blind, McAllister Upshaw, executive director; Michigan School for the Blind, Nancy J. Bryant, superintendent; Royal Maid, Hazlehurst, Mississippi, John L. Granger, vice-president and general manager; Kansas City (Missouri) Association for the Blind, Elva Hayes, executive director; Blind Work Association, Binghamton, New York, James F. Zinck,

managing director; Rhode Island State Services for the Blind, E. Lyman D'Andrea, administrator; Lighthouse for the Blind of Houston (Texas), Raymond R. Kaeble, acting general manager.

Accreditation of the following was extended, based on satisfactory reports of progress: The Maryland School for the Blind, Herbert J. Wolfe, superintendent; Guiding Eyes for the Blind, Yorktown Heights, New York, Donald Z. Kauth, executive director; Lancaster County Branch, Pennsylvania Association for the Blind, Marion R. Campbell, executive director.

Lions Club Industries for the Blind, Durham, North Carolina, did not apply for reaccreditation and is no longer an accredited agency.

REACCREDITATION: WHAT IT CAN MEAN

The Lighthouse for the Blind of Houston has supplied The Standard-Bearer with a copy of a resolution formally adopted in connection with its application for re-accreditation by NAC. Because the resolution sums up so well the motivation of many accredited agencies we publish its three highlights here:

(1) The Lighthouse is committed to quality, relevance, flexibility and responsibility in its organization, programs and services, and is willing to reexamine its performance in the light of its goals. (2) It pledges itself to seek active involvement in the affairs of accreditation. (3) It will acknowledge nationally in appropriate ways its belief in the philosophy of legitimate accreditation.

LANDMARK HISTORY OF BLINDNESS PUBLISHED

Frances A. Koestler, first editor of The Standard-Bearer, has written a history of blindness in the United States for the past 50 years. The Unseen Minority is an important reference for all those interested in the progress of blind people. It may be ordered from David McKay Company, 750 Third Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10017 at \$14.95 a copy. (New York residents add sales tax.)

ISB NEW NAC SPONSOR

Newest NAC Sponsoring Member is International Services for the Blind. ISB establishes scholarship funds for the training of blind persons from other nations through ISB and Arkansas Enterprises for the Blind.

STEPHENS HEADS ACCREDITATION COMMISSION

As this issue of The Standard-Bearer goes to press, NAC Board member Dr. Otis H. Stephens, professor of political science, University of Tennessee, has accepted appointment to chair NAC's Commission on Accreditation.

BULLETIN

NEW LEAGUE OF AND FOR THE BLIND ESTABLISHED

The Affiliated Leadership League of and for the Blind of America (ALL) has been founded to enable private and public agencies, schools and consumer organizations to work together and speak together on matters of common concern affecting blind persons and services for the blind.

Long needed but never before achieved, ALL will be governed by an Assembly made up of one representative of each participating organization. ALL members retain their autonomy and identity.

Among its purposes, ALL supports the concept of standards and accreditation of services for the blind.

NAC welcomes ALL and is among ALL's first members. For further information write: ALL, 1211 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 506, Washington, D.C. 20036.

ORDER FORM

Commission on Standards
National Accreditation Council
79 Madison Avenue, Room 1406
New York, N.Y. 10016

Please send me

Draft standards for Rehabilitation Teaching

(for comments) @ \$.75 (to cover postage/handling

No. Copies

Total Price

Mail to : _____

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Orders of less than \$5.00 must be prepaid. Please make check payable to
National Accreditation Council.

INTENT TO ATTEND NOVEMBER MEETINGS

National Accreditation Council
79 Madison Avenue, Rm. 1406, New York, N.Y. 10016

Yes, I hope to attend the following 1976 NAC meetings:

- () Function and Structure Standards Discussion, Nov. 17
- () Annual Membership Meeting, Nov. 17
- () Reception and Award Banquet, Nov. 17

- _____ estimated number of persons in my party
- () Board of Directors Meeting, Nov. 18

Name (please print) _____

Address _____

ADVANCE NOTICE

2794 DAY CARE: PROBLEMS, PROCESS & PROSPECTS, *Special Issue of Child Care Quarterly*

Editors: Donald L. Peters, Ph.D., Pennsylvania State University,
and Jerome Beker, Ed.D., Institute of Child Mental Health

The separate articles address such varied topics as: Recurring problems for day care providers, licensing representatives, teachers and parents • Training and certification issues • Procedures for meeting the individual educational/developmental needs of children • The rationale for and process of involving parents in day care • Research studies directed towards assessment and improvement of every day practice.

This volume draws together new material with a focus upon current issues in the day care field in both the United States and Canada. The contributors provide a balance between theory and practice by both clarifying recurring problems and making a variety of specific suggestions for meeting the challenge of providing quality care for large numbers of children.

1976

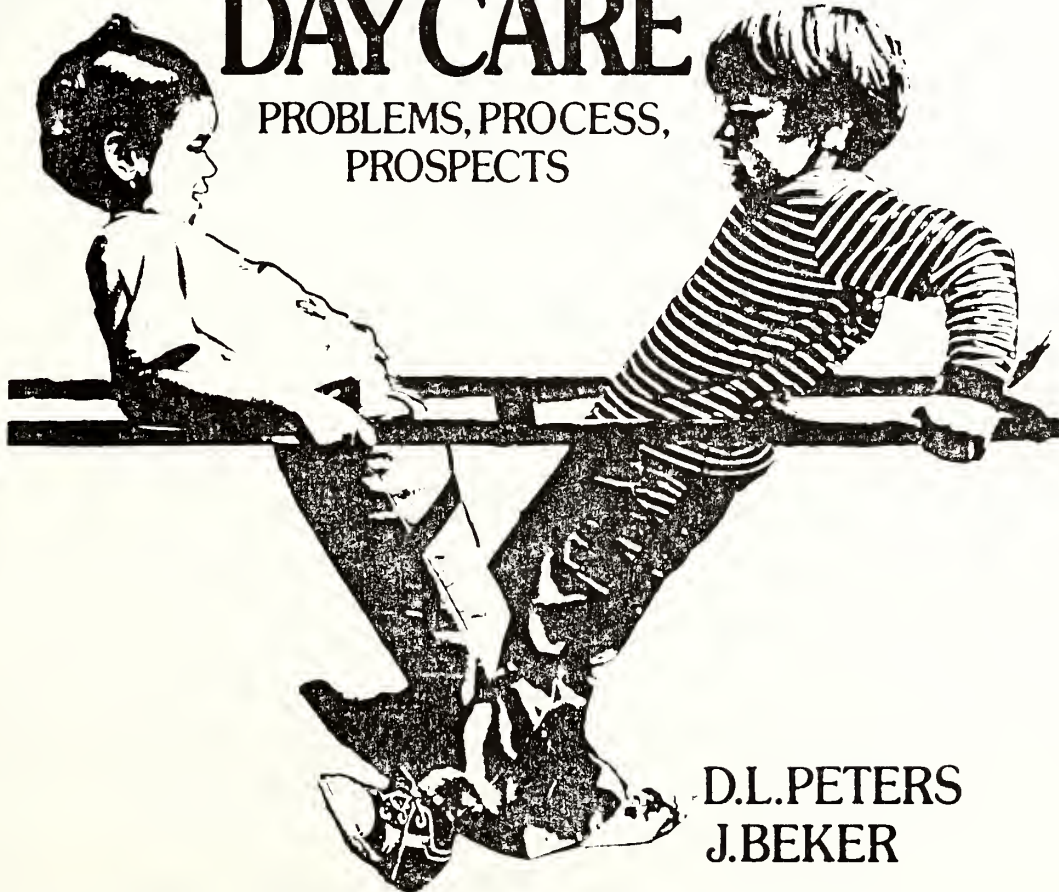
279-4 Hard, \$9.95

290-5 Paper, \$3.95

A SPECIAL ISSUE OF CHILD CARE QUARTERLY

DAY CARE

PROBLEMS, PROCESS,
PROSPECTS



D.L. PETERS
J. BEKER

CHILD CARE: A Comprehensive Guide

(A Serial Publication)

2565 Vol. II: Model Programs and Their Components

Editor: **Stevanne Auerbach, Ph.D.**, with **James A. Rivaldo**

Foreword by **John Brademas**, U.S. Representative, Indiana

This volume focuses on the planning of model programs and services. Not only do the brick-and-mortar issues have to be resolved, but decisions have to be made which determine the type and extent of services which are to be included in the child-care system. The examples included describe several of the programs that have often been discussed as model systems. These are usually communities where a great deal of energy, resources, and thoughtful planning have created effective child-care services. The book examines in greater detail what components have produced the results and traces the development of these models.

The resources in the Appendix of this volume offer additional models which have been described in other publications. For those who are interested in creating or expanding their own programs, the experiences shared by the authors will be most useful.

CONTENTS:

Introduction • Hustling Resources for Day Care, *James A. Levine* • A Community Organizes for Child Care: The Portland Experience, *Helen L. Gordon* • Organizing Services for Appalachia's Children, *Jean H. Berman* • Organizing Child Care for Students—"Growing Together," *Kathleen B. Latham* • Mirror for Advocates: The Berkeley Experience, *Kay Martin and Mary Millman* • Organizing Counseling and Coordination: A Model for Child Care Services in Colorado, *Mary W. Van Vlack, M.S.*, *Ramon C. Blatt, Ph.D.*, *Paul T. Barnes, Ph.D.* • A Plan for the Health Care of Children, *Ann de Huff Peters, M.D.* • Health Consultation in Child Care, *Susan S. Aronson, M.D.* • Planning for Health Services in a Child Care Center, *Marilyn Chow* • The Day Care Center: A Psychologist's View of Comprehensive Services, *Dorothy Nash Shack* • The Role of the Social Worker in Child Care, *David Brown* • The Implications of Piaget's Theory for Day-Care Education, *Keith R. Alward* • Providing Food Services, *Linda Regele-Sinclair* • The Organization of Day Care: Considerations Relating to the Mental Health of Child and Family, *Christoph M. Heinicke*, *David Friedman*, *Elizabeth Prescott*, *Conchita Puncel*, *June Solnit Sale*

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Human Sciences Press
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New York, N.Y. 10011

(Tear sheets of reviews requested.)

COMMENTS, PLEASE -- REHAB TEACHING STANDARDS

Ruth Kaarlela, head of the Technical Committee for review and revision of standards for rehabilitation teaching, has announced the draft of proposed revised standards is now available for national review.

If you responded to the original request for comments you will automatically be sent a copy of the draft and invited to offer suggestions. Or you can obtain a copy by using the enclosed order form. Responses are needed by October 15, 1976.

In recognition of the growing importance of the work of rehabilitation teachers, the standards will no longer be a sub-unit of standards for social services. Instead they will comprise a new and separate category.

LIBRARY STANDARDS WITHDRAWN

NAC announces the withdrawal of the standards for library services from further use. The decision was made in accordance with developments in the field.

Soon after the NAC standards were officially adopted by the American Library Association (ALA) in 1966, Congress changed federal funding of library services to the blind to include persons with other physical handicaps. As a result, library services for the blind today are increasingly provided by libraries not located in agencies for the blind. These libraries serve readers with many different handicaps.

In view of the changes in users and service delivery from those envisaged in the NAC-ALA standards, NAC and ALA agree these standards must be updated. ALA recently voted to do so.

Under present circumstances it seems most appropriate for professional librarians to take this initiative. NAC has offered its assistance to ALA and has expressed its long-standing interest and its hope (1) that standards will continue to reflect and stimulate quality services to blind and visually handicapped persons and (2) that standards may be usable to improve services and recognize quality programs through accreditation if desired by librarians. Meanwhile, the withdrawal will not affect the accreditation of multi-service agencies for the blind that offer library services.

GREENLEIGH STUDY CALLS FOR ACCREDITATION OF WORKSHOPS

A study of all types of sheltered workshops in the United States, conducted for the Rehabilitation Services Administration, U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare by Greenleigh Associates, has resulted in a Greenleigh recommendation that workshops be required to obtain accreditation from a designated body as a prerequisite to receiving federal funds and certification by the Department of Labor.

In transmitting the report to Congress, the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare noted particularly that DHEW had supported NAC in developing standards for agencies serving the blind.

AGENCIES ARE HOSTS OF ANNUAL MEETINGS

Four accredited agencies in the New York area will serve as hosts for NAC's Annual Membership Meeting, Board Meeting, and the discussion of standards for agency function and structure preceding the Annual Meeting. (See below.)

Host agencies are: Guiding Eyes for the Blind, The Industrial Home for the Blind, The Jewish Guild for the Blind, and The New York Association for the Blind.

At the suggestion of the hosts, a special program during the afternoon session of the Annual Meeting, November 17, will explore ways in which accredited agencies and NAC's new National Committee for Advancement of Standards can work together to strengthen services for blind people throughout the country.

Highlight of the evening's dinner meeting will be the presentation of the NAC Award to Past President Peter J. Salmon, leader of almost every positive development in work for blind persons in the past half century and an active leader today.

Those who attend the dinner will be guests of the host agencies at the reception immediately preceding it.

All meetings will be at the Hotel Roosevelt, New York City. Please use the lower section of the enclosed form to let us know your interest in attending.


COME TO THE CONFERENCE ON FUNCTION AND STRUCTURE STANDARDS

November 17, 1976 is the day. The Roosevelt Hotel in New York City is the place. The starting time is 9:30 a.m.

It's your chance to react on the spot and in person to the first draft of NAC's revised standards for agency function and structure. They're important because an agency's ability to provide quality services to blind persons -- in fact, the very existence of effective special services for blind people -- can depend on how an agency's function is defined, what kind of structure it has, and -- if it is part of a larger organization -- how it is perceived and placed in that organization's structure.

Please use the bottom half of the enclosed order form to let us know you plan to attend the conference. And stay on for NAC's Annual Meeting which opens the afternoon of the same day.

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No. 28

Winter 1977

NAC BEGINS NEW DECADE

NAC opened its doors in January 1967. In March of that year the first issue of The Standard-Bearer appeared with its bright blue banner waving briskly at the top of the page.

NAC's mandate was set forth in the first paragraph under that banner: to work for improved services for the blind and visually handicapped through a nationwide program of accreditation, development and maintenance of standards, research and education.

Ten years later this 28th issue attests the continuity of that mandate. As Louis H. Rives, Jr., NAC's president, said at the Annual Membership Meeting on November 17, 1976, "NAC has shown that it can change -- and also that it is here to stay."

Standards and accreditation in this specialized field are still new ideas challenging old concepts. NAC's task for the next ten years remains a big one -- to continue to bring about constructive change with and for blind Americans, through accreditation, development and maintenance of standards, research and education.

ACCREDITATIONS AT NEW HIGH

By the end of 1976 there were 64 accredited agencies and schools. Newest:

Tampa Lighthouse for the Blind
C.E. Olstrom, Executive Director

Even before the addition of the Tampa Lighthouse in December, the number of persons served by accredited agencies had jumped to more than 300,000 compared to about 200,000 in 1975. The 1976 figure includes more than 108,000 blind and visually handicapped and about 204,000 who received prevention-of-blindness and other services. These services were given through 189 facilities in 158 communities of 39 states and the District of Columbia.

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RECEIVED

SCHOOL, THREE AGENCIES REACCREDITED

Dr. Otis H. Stephens, chairman of the Commission on Accreditation, has announced the reaccreditation of Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School, Charles C. Woodcock, superintendent; Evansville (Indiana) Association for the Blind, Frank E. Kern, executive director; Minneapolis Society for the Blind, Jesse H. Rosten, executive director; and Syracuse (New York) Association of Workers for the Blind, Milton Rosenblum, executive director.

CHARITABLE AGENCIES NOW COVERED BY NLRB

In a three-to-two ruling on a case involving the Rhode Island Catholic Orphan Asylum and its service employees union, the National Labor Relations Board reversed its long-standing exclusion of charitable organizations from NLRB jurisdiction. The board declared that "the sole basis for declining or asserting jurisdiction over charitable organizations will now be identical to those which are not charitable."

NATIONAL, STATE AND LOCAL LEADERS PRAISE DR. SALMON

NAC's past president Dr. Peter J. Salmon received a presidential commendation in a letter from President Ford read at the dedication October 6, 1976 of the Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youths and Adults, Sands Point, New York. Stanley B. Thomas, assistant secretary for human development, DHEW, also paid tribute to Dr. Salmon saying: "The ... Center represents a dream of three remarkable people: Helen Keller, Mary E. Switzer and Peter J. Salmon."

The following month at NAC's Award Dinner November 17, Dr. Salmon accepted the NAC Award for outstanding leadership in raising standards of services for blind people, along with tributes from Governor Hugh Carey, Mayor Abraham Beame, Senators Jacob Javits and Jennings Randolph, and many others.

ADVANCEMENT OF STANDARDS

Reporting to NAC's membership on November 17, Huntington Harris, chairman of the National Committee for Advancement of Standards listed three committee objectives: (1) to stimulate interest in standards and accreditation among nonaccredited agencies and schools; (2) to show consumers and their organizations how accreditation and the use of the standards benefit them and to encourage their participation in NAC and in the agencies that serve them directly; (3) to promote understanding of accreditation among the general public.

Data compiled by the committee reveals that within the past two years more than 80 agencies have told NAC of their interest in accreditation. The committee is prepared to work with these agencies and others that express the desire to qualify for the recognition of accreditation.

BULLETIN

UPDATE ON STANDARDS

O & M STANDARDS AVAILABLE

The Commission on Standards, with the approval of NAC's Board of Directors, has published revised standards for orientation and mobility services. The revised standards may be ordered as a separate publication D-2A. (Standards for dog guide services, which have not been changed, have been designated as D-2B.) Use the form below to order.

WANTED: SUGGESTIONS FOR FUNCTION AND STRUCTURE STANDARDS

Draft standards for function and structure, which were discussed at the national conference on November 17, 1976, are now available for national review. Please let NAC have your comments not later than March 15, 1977. You can use the form below to order your copy of the draft.

(For more news of standards, see other side of this bulletin.)

ORDER FORM

Commission on Standards
National Accreditation Council
79 Madison Avenue, Suite 1406
New York, N.Y. 10016

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<u>New edition</u> , Section D-2A, Orientation and Mobility Services @ \$1.00	_____	_____
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BULLETIN

UPDATE ON STANDARDS

EDUCATION STANDARDS PROJECT UNDER WAY

Geraldine T. Scholl, Ph.D., professor of education, The University of Michigan, heads the national Coordinating Committee for the newest project of the Commission on Standards -- the review and revision of standards for special schools and development of standards for preschool services.

Urged by the U.S. Commissioner of Education to undertake this work, NAC has received funding from several foundations to get it started.

Dr. Scholl was chief consultant in the preparation of NAC's original Self-Study and Evaluation Guide for Residential Schools which has been successfully used by 16 schools to qualify for accreditation. She also directed the field test of the Guide. Project administrator is Huesten Collingwood, NAC staff member who worked with Dr. Scholl on the first Guide.

A great increase in multiply-handicapped children in special schools and recent federal legislation have now brought about the need for revisions and additional standards.

(For more news of standards, see other side of this bulletin.)

SPRAGUE HEADS COMMISSION ON STANDARDS

Wesley D. Sprague, executive director, The New York Association for the Blind, has accepted appointment as chairman of NAC's Commission on Standards, which has general responsibility for the development of new standards and the regular revision of all NAC standards. (See bulletin, Update on Standards, enclosed.)

MRS. GOLDBERG HONORED

Mrs. Marcella C. Goldberg, executive director of Pittsburgh Blind Association, a NAC-accredited agency, has received the International Human Relations Award of the Society for the Advancement of Management in recognition of her efforts to improve the condition of blind and visually handicapped persons and to prevent blindness, not only locally but on the state and national levels as well. Previous recipients of the award include J.C. Penney, Henry Ford II, and Robert Wood Johnson.

AAWB AWARD TO MISS MALONEY

Elizabeth Maloney, associate executive director of The Industrial Home for the Blind, a NAC-accredited agency, received the George E. Keane Award of the New York State Federation of Workers for the Blind for "twenty years of meritorious service to blind persons in the State of New York."

ANN BARBER JOINS NAC STAFF

NAC's new staff associate for accreditation is Miss Ann F. Barber. She succeeds Huesten Collingwood who is now staff associate for standards. Miss Barber was previously with Center for Independent Living, New York City, and New York Lighthouse.

BASIC REFERENCE ON BLINDNESS NOW AVAILABLE

Blindness, Visual Impairment, Deaf-Blindness: Annotated Listing of the Literature, 1953-75 may now be obtained from Temple University Press, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19122 at \$25 each. Compiled by Dr. Mary K. Bauman, this is the first comprehensive reference work of its kind since 1953. Semiannual supplements may be ordered from Nevil Interagency Referral Service, Room 400, 919 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107 at \$5.00 per year (two issues).

KUMPE RECEIVES AWARDS FROM ACB, DIALOGUE

NAC Board member Roy Kumpe, executive director of Arkansas Enterprises for the Blind, a NAC-accredited agency, has received the Ambassador Award, highest honor of the American Council of the Blind, and the Founder's Award of Dialogue magazine. Each organization paid tribute to Mr. Kumpe's creative leadership and his world-wide impact on services for blind people.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS ELECTED

NAC's membership on November 17, 1976 elected three new Board members and returned to the Board two former members. An additional seven members currently serving were reelected. All terms are for three years.

New members are:

Robert A. Bottenberg, Ph.D., chief, Computational Sciences, Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. Dr. Bottenberg is a past president of the Blinded Veterans Association and was chosen Handicapped American of the Year in 1972.

Raymond A. Kempf, Wayzata, Minnesota; chairman of the board, North Star Marina; chairman, Minnesota State Council for the Handicapped. Mr. Kempf is also vice president, Gopher State Blind Association, American Council of the Blind; president, Master Eye Foundation; and vice president, Minneapolis Society for the Blind.

Norman R. Robinson, assistant state's attorney of Cook County, Illinois - Consumer Complaint Division and vice president, American Blind Lawyers Association.

Those returning to the Board are:

John R. May, former director, The San Francisco Foundation; consultant. Mr. May was a member of the Commission on Standards and Accreditation of Services for the Blind (COMSTAC) and served on NAC's Board 1967-74.

Daniel D. Robinson, partner, Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Co., New York, and NAC's immediate past president who rotated off the Board in 1975.

Reelected were: William T. Coppage, director, Virginia Commission for the Visually Handicapped; Howard H. Hanson, assistant program administrator, South Dakota Services to the Visually Impaired; Hilliard F. Kirby, retired sales engineer, Asheville, N.C.; Durward K. McDaniel, Washington, D.C., attorney, national representative, American Council of the Blind; John P. McWilliams, Jr., assistant treasurer, Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York; Louis H. Rives, Jr., administrator, Arkansas Office for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

NEW OFFICERS, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER ELECTED

Mrs. Joseph Clifford, Scottsdale, Arizona, and John P. McWilliams, Jr., assistant treasurer of Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York, were elected secretary and treasurer respectively by NAC's Board of Directors on November 18, 1976 for one-year terms. Other officers were reelected, except for President Louis H. Rives, Jr., who continues for the second year of his two-year term. Mrs. Lawrence M. Levine, Cincinnati, was elected to the Executive Committee.

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NATIONAL ACCREDITATION COUNCIL

*For Agencies Serving the Blind
and Visually Handicapped*

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No. 29

AUG 29 1977

Summer 1977

M. V. W.

NAC ADDS THREE

Agencies continue the move toward accreditation. Latest:

Community Services for the Visually Handicapped
Chicago, Illinois
Peter Paul, Superintendent

The Maine Institution for the Blind
Portland, Maine
Hugo Sondergaard, Executive Director

Central Association for the Blind, Inc.
Utica, New York
Donald D. LoGuidice, Executive Director

There are now 67 NAC-accredited agencies and schools serving more than 300,000 blind and visually handicapped persons through 200 facilities in 167 communities of 39 states and the District of Columbia.

REACCREDITS FIVE

Dr. Otis H. Stephens, chairman of the Commission on Accreditation, has announced the reaccreditation of Services for the Blind Branch, State of Hawaii, (Honolulu), Mrs. Beatrice Higuchi, administrator; Blind Association of Western New York (Buffalo), Stanley J. Grenn, executive director; The Industrial Home for the Blind (New York), Joseph J. Larkin, executive director; The Governor Morehead School (Raleigh, N.C.), Samuel J. Cole, superintendent; and The Lighthouse for the Blind (Seattle), Rudolph Elmer, executive director.

INDUSTRIAL HOME HONORS DR. SALMON

Dr. Peter J. Salmon, a NAC-founder, was honored June 3 by the Industrial Home for the Blind for 60 years of service at IHB to blind and visually handicapped persons.

NAC SETS MEMBERSHIP/BOARD MEETINGS, PHOENIX

The Ramada Inn East, Phoenix, Arizona, will be the setting for NAC's Annual Meetings this November 14 and 15 with the Annual Membership Meeting Monday at 1:30 p.m. followed by the Annual Dinner at 6:30 p.m. There is a charge for the Dinner, so if you plan to attend this, please let NAC know and we'll send you a reservation form. The Annual Board Meeting will begin Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. If you have a specific matter to present to the Board, please send your request to: President, National Accreditation Council, 79 Madison Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10016. For possible inclusion on the agenda, your proposal should reach NAC no later than October 15.

Anyone wishing to attend either meeting as an observer should also let NAC know early so we can plan adequate space in the meeting rooms.

NAC and MIDDLE STATES AGREE

NAC and the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Secondary Schools now have a formal Working Agreement for Joint Procedures for Accreditation and Reaccreditation of Schools for the Blind -- a recent outcome of NAC's long and close cooperation with regional school accrediting bodies. It is expected that the opportunity to apply to each organization for accreditation, utilizing one self-study and on-site review process, will stimulate even more schools for the blind to seek accreditation.

NEGRIN HAILS ROLE OF STANDARDS

Addressing the Board of Directors of the Miami Lighthouse for the Blind in Florida earlier this year, Sam Negrin, director of community services at the American Foundation for the Blind, said: "For the past 11 years, NAC has been helping agencies to subject themselves to quality control, to objective standards that, when properly applied, will guarantee your consumers, your contributors, your staff and the total community a level of quality services, below which no agency should be permitted to operate..." adding: "It is fundamentally immoral to impose upon them programs and services which have not been subjected to quality controls."

ACCREDITATION GOAL WINS GRANT

When NAC-staff member, Carl Augusto, visited a local agency in the West recently, the agency head told him how his agency had applied to a well-known utility corporation for a grant. Corporation executives inquired about his agency's accreditation status and gave the grant only after they were assured his agency was working toward NAC accreditation.

ESP MOVES AHEAD

NAC's Education Standards Project for special schools is moving forward on schedule. The four subcommittees have prepared first drafts of the standards. The Coordinating Committee has accepted the drafts which are now available for national review.

From September 1 through December 31, selected schools and agencies will be field-testing the draft standards. Then the reports from the field test will be analyzed and utilized in preparing the final publications.

We also want to hear from you! Use the enclosed special order form to order the drafts in which you are interested. Please let the committee have your comments and suggestions not later than December 31, 1977.

NEW STANDARDS AVAILABLE

Two new sets of revised standards were approved by the Board of Directors at its July meeting in Portland, Oregon: standards for Function and Structure and standards for Rehabilitation Teaching Services. These new standards are available now for use in accreditation and reaccreditation, although agencies and schools engaged in self-studies may use the old standards if they prefer through February 28, 1978. Use order form below to obtain your copies of these new self-study and evaluation guides.

July: Can we order a copy of each?

ORDER FORM

Commission on Standards
National Accreditation Council
79 Madison Avenue, Room 1406
New York, N.Y. 10016

Please send me:

New Edition, Section C-1, Function and Structure
(for information and use) @ \$1.50

No. Copies

Total Price

2

\$ 3.00

New Edition, Section D-8, Rehabilitation Teaching Services
(for information and use) @ 1.00

2

\$ 2.00

Mail to: _____

(Zip)

Orders of less than \$10.00 must be prepaid. Please make check payable to National Accreditation Council.

COMMISSIONER LAUDS NAC

NAC is in full compliance with the requirements of the U.S. Office of Education's Advisory Committee on Accreditation and Institutional Eligibility, U.S. Commissioner of Education Ernest L. Boyer wrote on June 15, 1977. He added: "...congratulations to the Council for its continuing development."

NAC MOURNS MACFARLAND

Dr. Douglas C. MacFarland, director of the Office for the Blind and Visually Handicapped of the U.S. DHEW, died May 2, 1977. He is sorely missed. Dr. MacFarland served NAC as Board member for two terms and, before that, was a member of the COMSTAC committee on vocational services.

Before his death, Dr. MacFarland, a past president of the American Association of Workers for the Blind, had been selected to receive the Ambrose M. Shotwell Award, highest honor of the AAWB. NAC president Louis H. Rives, Jr., long-time friend and colleague of Dr. MacFarland, presented the Award posthumously to Dr. MacFarland's widow, Marjorie, at the AAWB Biennial Convention in Portland, Oregon, July 19, 1977.

CONSUMER INPUT AFFIRMED

Affirming that the policy of broad and purposeful consumer input applies to reaccreditation as it does to accreditation, NAC's Commission on Accreditation, at its meeting June 3, stressed that the self-reassessment process should include input from and participation by members of the agency staff; by its governing authority; by consumers, such as persons served, parents, organizations of the blind and other blind individuals; by representatives of community planning and funding bodies; by cooperating agencies and purchasers of services; by professional and lay leaders of the community and by others the agency deems may make significant contributions.


CHERYL SANDLER JOINS NAC STAFF

Newest member of NAC's staff is fund raiser Cheryl Sandler who joined NAC in April. She was previously with the Children's Aid Society of New York as an adoption caseworker. She holds the A.B. degree from the University of Connecticut and the M.S.W. from the University of Michigan.

NAC PRESIDENT SALUTES NFB INCUMBENT

In his opening address at NAC's Board meeting in Portland, Oregon, July 21, Louis H. Rives, Jr. extended best wishes to Ralph W. Sanders, executive vice president, Blind Industries and Services of Maryland, on becoming president of NFB. Mr. Rives expressed again the desire of NAC to work in harmony with NFB to bring about better rehabilitation services for all blind and visually handicapped Americans.

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Winter 1978

NAC ADDS SPONSOR, THREE SUPPORTERS

We welcome aboard new Sponsoring Member:

The General Council of Workshops for the Blind

We also welcome new Supporters:

Illinois Chapter of the American Association of Workers for the Blind
American Council of the Blind of New York State
Oklahoma Chapter, AAWB

Sponsoring Members are organizations of national or international scope, not eligible to apply for accreditation, with responsibility for quality services to blind and visually handicapped persons; voting members of the Council.

Supporters are organizations not eligible to apply for accreditation, interested in quality services to blind and visually handicapped persons, and wishing to be publicly identified with the Council's work.

Five organizations are now Sponsoring Members and 16 are official Supporters of NAC.

ANNOUNCES NEW CONSUMER BILL OF RIGHTS

Wesley D. Sprague, chairman of the Commission on Standards, reported at NAC's annual membership meeting in Phoenix, November 14, 1977, that the Board of Directors had adopted revised standards for function and structure. These standards include a "consumer bill of rights" which is expected to have far-reaching usefulness to agencies and schools for the blind and persons they serve.

The bill of rights defines consumers as persons served, members of organizations of the blind, or persons who represent a consumer by relationship or delegation.

The list of consumers' rights includes the right to be recognized, the right to know about matters of concern to the consumer, the right to participate in developing policies and services of agencies for the blind, the right to prompt service, the right to privacy, and the right to appeal procedures or decisions that the consumer objects to. Copies of the consumer bill of rights are available from NAC without charge.

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JAN 23 1978

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NAC ACCREDITS ONE: REACCREDITS FOUR

Dr. Otis H. Stephens, chairman of the Commission on Accreditation, has announced the accreditation of:

Alabama Department of Adult Blind and Deaf (Talladega)
George G. McFaden, Director

Found qualified for reaccreditation were Recording for the Blind, New York City, Stuart Carothers, executive director; Chicago Lighthouse for the Blind, Fred McDonald, executive director; Evansville (Indiana) Association for the Blind, Frank E. Kern, executive director; and South Dakota Division of Services to the Visually Impaired (Pierre), Timothy Reaves, acting director.

Accreditation for Tennessee School for the Blind (Donelson), Garland Cross, superintendent, has been extended through December 31, 1980.

Current number of accredited agencies and schools: 67. Raleigh Lions Clinic for the Blind did not apply for reaccreditation and is no longer an accredited agency.

NAC MUST INCREASE EFFORTS, RIVES TELLS MEMBERSHIP

At the annual membership meeting, November 14, 1977, President Louis H. Rives, Jr., warned that NAC must increase its own efforts if it is to fulfill its role as "the conscience of the field." Standards must include what blind people want and need, not what some group or organization says blind people want. He went on to point out two fallacies: that blindness is just an inconvenience and that the public rather than blind people must change if blind people are to advance. Some blind people, he explained, can overcome the handicap of blindness by themselves; others need help. They should get the best possible help -- shaped by blind people themselves.

AFB HEAD REAFFIRMS SUPPORT OF NAC

"I salute them (NAC-accredited agencies)", Loyal E. Apple, executive director of the American Foundation for the Blind, declared in AFB's October 1977 Newsletter, "and pledge the continued support of AFB to the cause of better services to all blind people through accreditation."

Mr. Apple's statement continued: "The growing number of accredited agencies naturally includes many that are in the forefront of other constructive programs...They not only demonstrate that improvement is possible -- they have shown their willingness to help others improve."

"Two years ago I expressed the AFB's continuing interest in NAC and statistics and information concerning NAC justified that support."

DR. KINNEY - STANDARDS LEAD TO HIGHER STANDARDS

Keynote speaker at NAC's annual dinner in Phoenix, November 14, 1977, was Dr. Richard Kinney, president of The Hadley School for the Blind, Winnetka, Illinois, and chairman of the recent Helen Keller World Conference on Services to Deaf-Blind Youths and Adults. Dr. Kinney thanked NAC for its sensitivity and support for the rights of deaf-blind persons, especially the acceptance, by the Commission on Standards, of the new Declaration of Rights of Deaf-Blind Persons, which had been adopted by the World Conference.

Today's standards must be regarded as milestones on the way to tomorrow's higher standards, according to Dr. Kinney. If NAC makes clear that its standards are a stairway of rising steps toward better lives for human beings, he said, "we will gain, and will deserve to gain, credit, credibility and accreditation."

KOESTLER, NEW WRITE NEW PR GUIDES

Two people long associated with NAC played roles in the production of a new series of management guidelines on public relations for nonprofit organizations. Frances A. Koestler, editor of The COMSTAC Report, which launched NAC's original standards, is general editor of the series. She also wrote the first guide, Planning and Setting Objectives. Anne L. New, NAC's consultant on community relations, who retired in December, 1977, is co-author, with Don Bates, of Using Standards to Strengthen Public Relations. Other titles are Using Publicity to Best Advantage, Working With Volunteers, Making the Most of Special Events, and Measuring Potential and Evaluating Results. The entire series may be ordered for \$12 (single copies \$2.50) from Public Relations Society of America, 845 Third Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022.

COMMISSION INCLUDES AAWB CERTIFICATION IN STANDARDS

The revised standards for rehabilitation teaching and orientation and mobility services list appropriate certification by the American Association of Workers for the Blind as one of the qualifications for teachers and instructors. By advice of counsel and the U.S. Office of Education, the standards must make clear that NAC retains ultimate responsibility for determining the standards it promulgates. Revised wording will be considered by NAC's Board at its next meeting. In the meantime, persons who wish to make suggestions on the wording of the standards should get in touch with the Commission on Standards before March 31, 1978.

NLRB WILL NOT ASSERT JURISDICTION OVER WORKSHOP CLIENTS

The National Labor Relations Board has handed down a decision involving Goodwill Industries of Southern California which is important to all sheltered workshops and rehabilitation centers. The NLRB held that, although "clients" of sheltered shops might arguably be "employees" within the meaning of the National Labor Relations Act, it would not "effectuate the purposes of the Act to assert jurisdiction over them."

NEW STANDARD BEARERS ON THE MARCH

Everyone who cares about better services for and with blind people may now become a member of NAC -- a Standard Bearer. The new non-voting personal membership was approved by NAC's Board at its annual meeting. Members will receive NAC's regular mailings including the annual report, list of accredited members and, of course, The Standard-Bearer. Tax-deductible dues are only \$10 a year.

In announcing the Standard Bearer program, Huntington Harris, chairman of NAC's National Committee for Advancement of Standards, said: "By increasing our numbers, we can carry the message of strengthened standards to every community across the country."

Use the form below to enroll.

NAC WILL RECORD NEWSLETTER, ANNUAL REPORT

NAC has obtained special funding to make available this issue of The Standard-Bearer and the current annual report in recorded form for persons who cannot read the inkprint edition. We hope that funding will be secured to continue to provide this service. If you would like to receive The Standard-Bearer and other mailings in recorded form, use the form below.

National Accreditation Council
79 Madison Avenue, Room 1406
New York, N.Y. 10016

TO BECOME A STANDARD BEARER

Yes, I want to become a STANDARD BEARER.

Name _____

Address _____

Amount paid: \$ _____

National Accreditation Council
79 Madison Avenue, Room 1406
New York, N.Y. 10016

TO RECEIVE RECORDED MAILINGS

Yes, I would like to receive The Standard-Bearer and Annual Report in recorded form.

Name _____

Address _____

LONG RANGE PLAN APPROVED

NAC's Long Range Plan for fiscal years 1979-83 was approved by the Board of Directors at its annual meeting in Phoenix, November 15, 1977.

Part of NAC's cycle of planning, evaluation and revision that enables NAC to adjust its work in the light of changing conditions, the Long Range Plan is a basic component of NAC's management information system and is used as a guide in drawing up the budget and annual program plan each year. It includes a functional summary of workload over the five-year period, a table of projected goals, the five-year plan itself, and two addenda -- the environmental assumptions that influence NAC's work and affect its priorities, and a summary of the highlights and major changes in the plan.

SANFORD ALEXANDER JOINS NAC STAFF

Sanford J. Alexander becomes NAC's new staff associate beginning in February, 1978. Sandy previously was assistant to the director of the Nevil Interagency Referral Service in Philadelphia. He also has been on the staff of the New York Association for the Blind and Recording for the Blind, both NAC-accredited agencies. He holds the B.A. degree and the M.S. degree from Long Island University.

CBBB, NIB STRENGTHEN STANDARDS FOR CHARITABLE SOLICITATION

The two watchdog organizations for charitable solicitation have recently revised their standards. These changes do much to strengthen the guidelines and all nonprofit organizations are encouraged to study them carefully and utilize them.

For copies of the CBBB revised standards, write: Mrs. Helen O'Rourke, Director, Philanthropic Advisory Service, Council of Better Business Bureaus, 1150 17th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

For copies of the NIB standards, write: National Information Bureau, 419 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. 10016.

ILLINOIS WILL HOST 1978 ANNUAL MEETING

NAC's Board of Directors, at its meeting on November 15, 1977, accepted the invitations of Illinois state and local agencies and organizations of blind persons to hold NAC's 1978 Annual Meetings in that state. Dennis Schreiber of the Independent Blind of Illinois and James Kesteloot, director, Vocational Center, Chicago Lighthouse for the Blind, personally extended the invitations on behalf of their respective organizations in addition to the invitation extended by resolution of the Illinois Federation of the Blind, ACB. Exact date and site of the meeting will be announced in a later issue of The Standard-Bearer.

RIVES, CLIFFORD, McWILLIAMS REELECTED; NEW VICE PRESIDENTS CHOSEN

Louis H. Rives, Jr., NAC's president, was voted a second two-year term by the Board of Directors on November 15, 1977 in Phoenix, Arizona. Mr. Rives is administrator of the Arkansas Office for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

Elected for one-year terms as vice-presidents were: William T. Coppage, director, Virginia Commission for the Visually Handicapped; Morton Pepper, attorney, New York City; Reese H. Robrahn, research director, American Council of the Blind, Washington, D.C.

Elected to second one-year terms were: secretary, Mrs. Joseph Clifford, civic leader, Scottsdale, Arizona; treasurer, John P. McWilliams, Jr., assistant vice president, Morgan Guaranty Trust Company, New York City.

Chosen as members-at-large of the Executive Committee were Mrs. Lawrence M. Levine, Cincinnati, past president of the National Braille Association, and Dr. George E. Stocking, counseling psychologist, Veterans Administration Hospital, Miami, Florida. Mrs. Levine was elected to her second one-year term.

MEMBERSHIP ELECTS NEW BOARD MEMBERS

NAC's membership, meeting in Phoenix on November 14, 1977, elected three new Board members and returned one former member to the Board. An additional eight members currently serving were reelected. All full terms are for three years.

New members are: Robert J. Crouse, executive director, Atlanta Area Services for the Blind, member of the Executive Committee of the American Association of Workers for the Blind; Armand P. Leco, senior vice president, Blue Cross-Blue Shield of Rhode Island, board member and past president of the Rhode Island Association for the Blind; and Robert T. McLean, professor, Loyola University, New Orleans, member, Board of Directors, New Orleans Lighthouse for the Blind, Associated Leadership League of and for the Blind of America (ALL) and the Louisiana Council of the Blind. Dr. McLean was named to fill the unexpired term ending in 1980 of Hilliard P. Kirby, who resigned because of ill health.

Returning to the Board after an absence of one year was Morton Pepper. Mr. Pepper had been a member of the Board 1970-76, serving on the Executive Committee and as chairman of the Program Support Committee.

Reelected were: Joseph E. Champagne, Mrs. Joseph Clifford, J. Kenneth Cozier, Mrs. William G. Derouin, C. Owen Pollard, Reese H. Robrahn, Austin G. Scott, and George E. Stocking.



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NAC ACCREDITS EIGHT, REACCREDITS SIX

Dr. Otis H. Stephens, chairman of the Commission on Accreditation, has announced that eight agencies and schools were accredited for the first time at the Commission's June meeting and six organizations were reaccredited, bringing the number of NAC-accredited agencies and schools to 75, a new high.

The newly accredited agencies and schools are:

The Foundation for Blind Children
Scottsdale, Arizona
Mrs. Margaret Bluhm, Executive Director

The Florida Association of Workers
for the Blind, Miami
Vernon Metcalf, Executive Director

Department for the Blind, Florida State
School for the Deaf and the Blind
St. Augustine
William J. McClure, President

Georgia Factory for the Blind, Bainbridge
Clayton Penhallegon, Executive Director

Georgia Academy for the Blind, Macon
Richard E. Hyer, Jr., Superintendent

The New York Institute for the
Education of the Blind, Bronx
Roger C. Walker, Director

Division of Visual Services
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
Travis Harris, Visual Services Director

Industries for the Blind
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Claude W. Hirsch,
Executive Vice President

Organizations awarded reaccreditation are:

Department for the Visually Handicapped,
Arizona State School for the Deaf and
the Blind, Tucson

Sacramento Society for the Blind
Sacramento, California

Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind
Washington, D.C.

Vocational Rehabilitation for the Blind
Jackson, Mississippi

The Jewish Guild for the Blind
New York, New York

Wisconsin School for the Visually
Handicapped, Janesville

In other actions the initial applications of two organizations were deferred, and one was denied. The Commission postponed decision on one application for reaccreditation, and placed one accredited member on warning. The number of newly accredited agencies and schools during FY '78 is the largest number in six years. This reflects the increasing interest in achieving NAC accreditation.

RECORDING OF NEWSLETTER, ANNUAL REPORT TO CONTINUE; LIST OF AGENCIES ADDED

NAC has secured special funding to continue producing NAC's Newsletter, including this one, and its Annual Report on flexible disc for those readers who are unable to read the print editions. As an added feature, an up-to-date list of accredited agencies and NAC Sponsors and Supporters will be produced semiannually on discs. Please contact NAC if you wish to be placed on the mailing list for these recorded materials.

SELF-STUDY AND EVALUATION GUIDES NOW AVAILABLE IN RECORDED FORM

Recording for the Blind, Inc. has announced that it is making available on cassette and open reel the self-study and evaluation guides published by NAC. The following guides have been recorded to date:

- C-1, Function and Structure (1977 edition)
- C-2, Accounting for Services and Finances (1976)
- C-3, Personnel Administration and Volunteer Service
- C-4, Physical Facilities (1975)
- C-5, Public Relations and Fund Raising
- D-2A, Orientation and Mobility Services (1977)
- D-2B, Dog Guide Program
- D-3, Rehabilitation Centers
- D-4, Workshop Services (1976)
- D-5, Social Services
- D-6, Vocational Services (1975)
- D-7, Production of Reading Materials (1977)
- D-8, Rehabilitation Teaching Services (1977)

These guides are available on either 15/16 ips 4-track cassettes, or 1-7/8 ips, 4-track open reel tapes on 5" reels.

These recordings will be available to eligible blind and visually handicapped persons who are participating in agency self-studies, accreditation visits, and those who wish to learn more about NAC's standards. In order to borrow these guides in recorded form the reader must register with Recording for the Blind, Inc., for its services by completing an "Application for Service." To order recorded self-study and evaluation guides, contact Recording for the Blind, Inc., 215 East 58 Street, New York, N.Y. 10022.

SHELTERED WORKSHOPS EXHIBIT

The chairman of The President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped's standing committee on workshops, Rudolph Elmer, has announced that an exhibit designed to promote workshops as "a bridge for handicapped people" is now available free on short loan. Those wishing to obtain this exhibit should write to: Standing Committee on Sheltered Workshops, The President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped, Washington, D.C. 20210. Mr. Elmer is executive director of the Lighthouse for the Blind, Seattle, Washington, and served as chairman of NAC's technical committee for the review of Standards for Workshop Service.

NAC MEMBERSHIP AND BOARD MEETINGS TO BE HELD IN CHICAGO

NAC has accepted the invitation of several of its Accredited and Supporter organizations to hold its Annual Membership and Board meetings in Chicago, Illinois. The meetings will be held on November 4 and 5, 1978, at the O'Hare Hilton Hotel located at O'Hare Airport. The Membership meeting will begin on November 4 at 1:30 p.m. and will be followed by a reception and by the Annual Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

NAC's Board of Directors will meet at 9:00 a.m. on November 5. If you have a specific matter to present to the Board, please send your request to: President, National Accreditation Council, 79 Madison Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10016. For possible inclusion on the program your proposal should reach NAC no later than September 30.

Both the Membership and Board meetings are open and observers are welcome. If you plan to attend either or both of these meetings, please notify NAC by September 30 so that adequate seating space can be arranged. Also, if you plan to attend the dinner, you are encouraged to contact NAC promptly for reservation information.

The featured speaker at the dinner will be Dr. Robert J. Winn, Jr., Director, Office for the Blind and Visually Handicapped, RSA. The program at the Annual Meeting will include a presentation on NAC's Education Standards Project.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

NAC cordially invites all interested persons to submit names to the Nominations Committee for consideration as candidates for election to the Board of Directors at the Annual Membership Meeting on November 4.

Morton Pepper, who chairs the Nominations Committee, reports that the committee is especially interested in receiving recommendations from all national organizations of the blind. Mr. Pepper points out that at least one third of the Board members elected each year are members of such organizations or persons recommended by them.

Please submit names, along with brief biographical information, to Mr. Pepper at NAC no later than September 1, 1978.

ESP NEARS CONCLUSION

The Education Standards Project (ESP), a two year project to revise the standards and self-study instruments for special schools serving the blind and visually handicapped, continues to progress on schedule. The national review of the project's twelve drafts has been completed. More than 250 individuals contributed comments and suggestions for improving these drafts. In addition, nine agencies and schools 'field-tested' the proposed standards.

In early spring, project subcommittees met to study the comments and suggestions and to further refine and improve the drafts. The Coordinating Committee, chaired by Dr. Geraldine T. Scholl, approved revised drafts in June. These revised drafts will be considered by NAC's Commission on Standards and Board in November. Publication and use in accreditation of the new self-study guides is expected early in 1979. One new set of standards on pre-school services has been designed for use by agencies and day school programs.

SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION ADOPTS POLICY TO WORK WITH NAC

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools has promulgated a Policy on Co-operative Evaluations with NAC which will facilitate processing of applications for accreditation or reaccreditation from schools for the blind in that region. According to the Policy, schools for the blind can apply for national recognition through NAC and regional recognition through SACS utilizing one self-study process and a joint on-site accreditation visit. NAC is continuing to maintain and further develop its productive relationships with regional educational accrediting bodies in order to better serve special schools for the blind.

STATES ADOPT ACCREDITATION POLICIES

An increasing number of state vocational rehabilitation agencies for the blind and visually handicapped is adopting NAC accreditation policies for the voluntary facilities from which they purchase services. These actions are being taken to assure that acceptable standards for quality services, responsible management and public accountability are being met by voluntary facilities which receive government funding. They also are intended to stimulate improvements in vocational rehabilitation services available to blind and visually handicapped people. Recently Arizona, Indiana and Wisconsin have joined the states implementing such policies.

In transmitting the new Arizona accreditation policy, Thomas Tyrrell, Chief, Rehabilitation Services Bureau, announced that technical assistance and state agency funding would be available to voluntary agencies seeking NAC accreditation. Other states have included similar provisions designed to make it easier for voluntary agencies to prepare for the accreditation process.

NAC MOURNS COZIER, KIRBY

This past January, two of NAC's most energetic, dedicated leaders passed away: J. Kenneth Cozier and Hilliard F. Kirby. They will be sorely missed.

Mr. Cozier, who served on NAC's Board all but one year of NAC's existence, was a member of COMSTAC, the ad hoc committee which first formulated the standards and recommended the establishment of NAC. He held the offices of vice president and treasurer, and was chairman of the Finance Committee. In 1973 he received the NAC Award for distinguished service in raising standards for services for blind and visually handicapped persons. He also was a recipient of the Migel Award from the American Foundation for the Blind, and the Ambrose-Shotwell Memorial Award from the American Association of Workers for the Blind for his outstanding contributions to the field of work with and for the blind and visually handicapped. Many of NAC's achievements can be attributed to the hard work and commitment of Mr. Cozier.

Mr. Kirby served on NAC's Board from 1975 to 1977, when he resigned due to poor health. He was a member of NAC's Nominations and Program Support Committees. Blinded during World War II, Mr. Kirby was selected as the outstanding blinded veteran in 1951.

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the standard-bearer

NATIONAL ACCREDITATION COUNCIL

*For Agencies Serving the Blind
and Visually Handicapped*

79 Madison Avenue • New York, N. Y. 10016 • (212) 683-8581

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No. 32

Winter 1979

NAC ACCREDITS 3, REACCREDITS 2

Otis H. Stephens, chairman of the Commission on Accreditation, announced that three organizations were accredited in December. They are: Alabama School for the Blind (Talladega), George H. Dabbs, principal; Toledo Society for the Blind (Ohio), Barry A. McEwen, executive director; and Oklahoma League for the Blind (Oklahoma City), LeRoy F. Saunders, executive director.

Also, Guiding Eyes for the Blind (Yorktown Heights, New York) and New Hampshire Association for the Blind (Concord) were reaccredited. The initial application of another agency was postponed. The total number of agencies and schools accredited by NAC now stands at 77.

NAC ELECTS NEW OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

NAC's membership, at its meeting in Chicago, November 4, 1978, elected five new Board members and returned two former members to the Board. In addition, eight members presently serving were reelected. Full terms extend for three years.

New members are: Thomas H. Carruthers, IV, sales representative, Standard Publishing Company and president, Clovernook Home and School for the Blind; Mrs. J. Kenneth Cozier (to fill unexpired term ending 1980) Shaker Heights, Ohio, and director, Cleveland Society for the Blind; Owen R. Davison, associate executive director, Community Services of Pennsylvania, Harrisburg; Oral O. Miller (to fill unexpired term ending 1979), attorney, U.S. Small Business Administration and president, American Council of the Blind; and Ronald L. Miller (to fill unexpired term ending 1979), employment representative, U.S. Department of Labor and president, Blinded Veterans Association. Returning to the Board after a one-year period of absence are: Mrs. Claire W. Carlson and Huntington Harris.

Reelected were: Samuel J. Cole, Roy Kumpe, Elizabeth M. Lennon, Mrs. Lawrence M. Levine, David L. Schnair, Wesley D. Sprague, Otis H. Stephens, and Mrs. Helen W. Worden. Five of the fifteen elected were suggested by national organizations of the blind.

At its meeting of November 5, the Board reelected the following officers for one-year terms: Morton Pepper, first vice-president; William T. Coppage, second vice-president; Reese Robrahn, third vice-president; Mrs. Joseph Clifford, secretary; and John P. McWilliams, Jr., treasurer. Louis H. Rives, Jr., continues as president. Both members at-large of the Executive Committee, Mrs. Lawrence M. Levine and George E. Stocking, were reelected to one-year terms.

NAC ADOPTS NEW EDUCATION STANDARDS

Wesley D. Sprague, chairman of NAC's Commission on Standards, announced that NAC's Board of Directors adopted new standards for special schools for the blind and, for the first time, standards for preschool programs for blind and visually handicapped children and their families. The standards for special schools, which cover a broad range of service functions, are contained in ten self-study and evaluation guides. These guides, along with the existing NAC guides for management functions, will now be used by these schools in applying for accreditation and re-accreditation. Another guide is available for preschool services and will be used by schools or agencies that offer this service.

The publication of these guides marks the conclusion of NAC's project to revise its standards for special schools which was launched in the fall of 1976.

Mr. Sprague especially commended Dr. Geraldine T. Scholl, Professor of Education at the University of Michigan, who chaired the national technical committee which oversaw the project.

At the Board meeting in Chicago, NAC President Louis H. Rives, Jr., presented the NAC Service Award to Dr. Scholl for her many contributions to NAC's work. Dr. Scholl guided the development of the original Self-Study and Evaluation Guide for Residential Schools which is being replaced by the new guides.

NAC received broad-based input in formulating the new standards. More than 250 professionals, consumers, and other interested persons submitted suggestions to the technical committee. Another feature of the national review was the field-testing by eleven agencies and schools of the guides.

The project, which was funded with five foundation grants, was undertaken to reflect important changes within schools for the blind resulting from increased enrollment of multihandicapped students, the impact of the Education of All Handicapped Children Act, and other recent developments.

NEW PUBLICATIONS LIST AND ORDER FORM WITH THIS ISSUE

Inserted with this issue of The Standard-Bearer is a revised publications list and order form for use in purchasing sections of NAC's Self-Study and Evaluation Guide.

In addition to the newly revised sections relating to special schools and preschool programs, the publications list and order form identifies other revised sections for use by organizations applying for accreditation and reaccreditation. They are: sections A, Manual of Procedures; B-1, Agency Profile; B-2, School Profile; F, Evaluation Summary and Report; and D-16, Other Service Program. The D-16 section is for service programs not presently encompassed by NAC's other guides.

MEMBERSHIP AND BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

"We've had a decade of accomplishment; we've had our best year to date; we have a great future ahead; and we are all going to stick together to build toward that future... for the sake of blind people in this nation..." So said Louis H. Rives, Jr., as he concluded the president's banquet address during NAC's annual membership and board meetings which were held at the O'Hare Hilton Hotel in Chicago, Illinois on November 4-5, 1978.

Co-hosting this year's meeting were NAC-accredited agencies and schools in the area (Chicago Lighthouse for the Blind; Community Services for the Visually Handicapped, Chicago; Illinois Visually Handicapped Institute, Chicago; Illinois School for the Visually Impaired, Jacksonville; Hadley School for the Blind, Winnetka; Wisconsin School for the Visually Handicapped, Jaynesville; and Industries for the Blind, Milwaukee) and official NAC Supporters: Illinois Association of Workers for the Blind (AAWB) and the Illinois Federation of the Blind (ACB).

On November 4, the membership approved new bylaws to (1) change the name of NAC's National Committee for Advancement of Standards to Commission on Advancement of Standards, and to provide that its chairman serve as an ex-officio member of the Executive Committee (as do the chairmen of NAC's other two Commissions), and (2) make provision for the filling of vacancies for the officers and other members of the Executive Committee.

Dr. Robert J. Winn, Jr., Director, Office for the Blind and Visually Handicapped, Rehabilitation Services Administration, U.S. DHEW, spoke to those gathered by a special telephone hook-up. He detailed the steps that the Office for the Blind and Visually Handicapped is taking to identify needs of blind and visually handicapped persons in this country and to systematically plan to meet these needs.

The Board, at its November 5, 1978 meeting, reviewed the standards for qualifications of orientation and mobility specialists and rehabilitation teachers and decided to retain the present wording without change. This action was taken at the recommendation of the Commission on Standards which carefully reviewed input received from a variety of sources, and in accordance with the request from the American Association of Workers for the Blind, that these standards should remain as presently worded.

AUGUSTO APPOINTED ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

The appointment of Carl R. Augusto as assistant director of NAC was announced recently by Dr. Richard W. Bleecker, executive director. Since joining NAC in August, 1975, Mr. Augusto has served as staff associate for advancement of standards.

NAC ANNOUNCES NEXT STANDARDS PROJECT

The Commission on Standards has announced the initiation of a project to revise standards for personnel administration and volunteer service. Owen R. Davison, Associate Executive Director of Community Services of Pennsylvania, a new member of NAC's Board and Commission on Standards will chair the national technical committee which will oversee this review.

NAC will update these standards to take into account recent federal legislation concerning affirmative action and reasonable accommodation in employing handicapped persons, the increased impact of labor unions, the differences in the way governmental and voluntary organizations set personnel practices and policies, and shifts in the availability and use of volunteers.

The Commission on Standards invites you to review the present standards and let NAC have your comments and suggestions for updating them by April 30, 1979. A copy of the guide may be ordered by means of the enclosed order form.

The Commission also announced that attention soon will be given to revision of the standards for production of reading materials and to the development of standards for low vision clinic services.

ALL RESOLUTION

The membership of the Affiliated Leadership League of and for the Blind of America (ALL), at its meeting in San Antonio on July 1, 1978, passed a resolution endorsing the standards and practices of NAC, the National Information Bureau, the Council of Better Business Bureaus, and State bureaus for charitable regulation. The resolution urges ALL members, and other consumer groups and charitable agencies serving the blind, to endorse and comply with the applicable standards of these organizations.

NAC MATERIALS IN RECORDED FORM

NAC continues to produce some of its printed materials on flexible disc for interested blind and visually handicapped persons. The latest edition includes this issue of The Standard-Bearer and the newest list of accredited agencies and schools, Sponsors and Supporters.

The third disc contains the 1977-78 NAC Annual Report, "Facts About NAC," and an excerpt from NAC's standards, "Rights of Consumers." The second disc includes the summer, 1978 edition of The Standard-Bearer and the list of accredited agencies, sponsors and supporters as of June 30, 1978. The inaugural disc contains the 1977 NAC Annual Report and the winter 1978 edition of The Standard-Bearer.

If you are interested in obtaining one or more of the four discs, write to NAC, 79 Madison Avenue, New York, New York 10016.

NATIONAL ACCREDITATION COUNCIL

For Agencies Serving the Blind and Visually Handicapped

79 Madison Avenue New York, N. Y. 10016 212 683-8581

PUBLICATIONS LIST AND ORDER FORM

(Effective January 1, 1979)

	INDIVIDUAL SELF-STUDY AND EVALUATION GUIDES	Price	Quantity	Amount
	Manual of Procedures (1979)	\$1.00		
-1	Agency Profile (1979)	1.00		
-2	School Profile (1979)	1.00		
-1	Function and Structure (1977)	1.50		
-2	Accounting for Services and Finances (1976)	1.50		
-3	Personnel Administration and Volunteer Service (1968)	1.50		
-4	Physical Facilities (1975)	1.50		
-5	Public Relations and Fund Raising (1968)	1.50		
2A	Orientation and Mobility Services (1977)	1.50		
2B	Orientation and Mobility Services (Dog Guide Program) (1968)	1.50		
-3	Rehabilitation Centers (1968)	1.50		
-4	Workshop Services (1976)	1.50		
-5	Social Services (1968)	1.50		
-6	Vocational Services (1976)	1.50		
-7	Production of Reading Materials (1970)	1.50		
-8	Rehabilitation Teaching Services (1977)	1.50		
-15	Preschool Services (From Birth to Six) (1979)	1.50		
-16	Other Service Program (1979)	1.50		
-20	Curriculum Planning and Evaluation (1979)	1.50		
-21	Program for Multihandicapped Students (1979)	1.50		
-22	Program for K-12 Students (1979)	1.50		
-23	Program for Independent Living (1979)	1.50		
-24	Educational Resources Program (1979)	1.50		
-25	Leisure Education (1979)	1.50		
-26	Residential Living Program (1979)	1.50		
-27	Health Services (1979)	1.50		
-28	Educational Diagnostic and Counseling Services (1979)	1.50		
	Individual Staff Member Information Form (1977)10		
	Evaluation Summary and Report (1979)	1.00		
Total amount this page				\$

PUBLICATIONS LIST AND ORDER FORM (Continued)

Total Amount Carried Forward from Preceding Page \$ _____

	<u>Price</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Amount</u>
II. GENERAL SERIES (special price for one copy each of: A, B-1, C-1, C-2, C-3, C-4, C-5, D-2A, D-3, D-4, D-5, D-6, D-7, D-8, D-15, D-16, E and F)	\$ 18.00	_____	_____
III. WORKSHOP SERIES (special price for one copy each of: A, B-1, C-1, C-2, C-3, C-4, C-5, D-4, E and F)	9.00	_____	_____
IV. SPECIAL (RESIDENTIAL) SCHOOL SERIES (special price for one copy each of: A, B-2, C-1, C-2, C-3, C-4, C-5, D-15, D-16, D-20, D-21, D-22, D-23, D-24, D-25, D-26, D-27, D-28, E and F)	18.00	_____	_____
V. COMPLETE SERIES (special price for one copy of all 29 self-study and evaluation guides listed on other side) . .	25.00	_____	_____
VI. BASIC REFERENCE BOOKS			
THE COMSTAC REPORT: Standards for Strengthened Services (1966)	5.00	_____	_____
Standards for Production of Reading Materials (1970) . .	2.50	_____	_____
VII. OFFICIAL POLICIES			
Commission on Accreditation	1.00	_____	_____
Commission on Standards	1.00	_____	_____
Total amount due			\$ _____

Orders sent postpaid 4th class book rate.

Orders of less than \$15.00 must be prepaid.

Please make check payable to National Accreditation Council.

Purchase Order # _____ Date _____ Signature _____

BILL TO: SHIP TO:

Name _____

Org. _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

NAC OFFICE USE ONLY

INVOICE NO. _____

PAYMENT RECEIVED :

DATE RECEIVED _____

DATE SHIPPED _____

ILLINOIS ADOPTS NAC ACCREDITATION POLICY

The Board of Directors of the Illinois Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (IDVR) adopted a policy in December, 1978 which recognizes NAC as the organization for the accreditation of voluntary rehabilitation facilities serving the blind in Illinois. The decision was based upon recommendations of an ad hoc accreditation committee of the IDVR Board which was appointed to study the merits of such an action and to review objections made by the National Federation of the Blind.

Proposed by Mr. James S. Jeffers, IDVR Director, the policy calls upon agencies which primarily serve the blind to be accredited by NAC. Illinois joins a growing number of states which are promulgating similar policies based upon the resolution on voluntary accreditation of the Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation.

NAC TO PARTICIPATE IN HELEN KELLER CONGRESS

NAC will actively participate in the Helen Keller Congress to be held in Boston on June 23-28, 1980. The Congress will mark the 100th anniversary of the birth of Miss Keller who was a significant force in advancing the cause of higher quality services to blind and deaf-blind people.

The theme for the Congress is "a blueprint for the future in which visually impaired and multihandicapped blind people will have the same opportunities to live as full and useful lives as Helen Keller."

AAWB BECOMES SPONSOR, THREE SUPPORTERS ADDED

"By action of the national Board of Directors, the American Association of Workers for the Blind will, beginning with the next calendar year, 1979, become a Sponsoring rather than a Supporting organization of the National Accreditation Council. We have enjoyed our relationship with you in the past, and anticipate a more active role in the future." These were the words of John H. Maxson, Executive Director of AAWB, as he addressed NAC's membership in Chicago on November 4, 1978. With this action, AAWB becomes a voting Sponsor of the Council.

Three organizations recently affiliated with NAC as Supporting members: Gopher State Blind Associates (the American Council of the Blind affiliate in Minnesota), Matilda Ziegler Magazine (New York City), and Richmond Host Lions Club (Virginia).

There are now 25 official NAC Sponsors and Supporters. These organizations are publicly identified with NAC because they support standards and accreditation for agencies and schools that serve blind and visually handicapped men, women, and children.

OTHER ACCREDITATION NEWS

NAC's Board of Directors revised the Commission on Accreditation Policies governing eligibility to apply for NAC accreditation. The new criteria make it clear that, in order to apply, an organization must have the provision of services to blind and visually handicapped persons as its primary purpose. The new policies make it possible for profit-making organizations to seek accreditation. A copy of the revised policies may be obtained by using the enclosed order form.

Dr. James D. McComas was appointed to a three-year term on the Commission on Accreditation. Dr. McComas is President of Mississippi State University.

The Commission on Accreditation withdrew the accreditation of the Maine Institution for the Blind (Portland) effective August 1, 1978. The Commission determined that the Institution's compliance with NAC's standards no longer is sufficient to warrant the recognition of accreditation.

Accreditation by NAC signifies that an agency or school meets nationally accepted standards for quality services to blind and visually handicapped Americans, responsible management, and public accountability.

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP

NAC's work continues and grows because the community cares. And you are part of that community.

Here is how you can help. Celebrate a birthday or anniversary with a gift to NAC. Become a Standard Bearer member. Designate a bequest in your will. Make a memorial contribution. Tell others about NAC's programs for improving the quality of living for blind people through standards and accreditation.

Your help will make a difference.

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For Agencies Serving the Blind and Visually Handicapped

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New York, New York 10016

(212) 683-8581

Accredited Members*



as of January 1, 1979

ALABAMA	Talladega	CALIFORNIA	Sacramento	GEORGIA (cont'd)	Bainbridge
Alabama School for the Blind ('82)		Sacramento Society for the Blind ('83)		Georgia Factory for the Blind ('80)	
George H. Dabbs, Principal		Thomas C. Ryan, Executive Director		Clayton Penhallegon, Executive Director	
Department of Adult Blind and Deaf of the Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind ('83)		DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA			Macon
George G. McFaden, Director		Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind ('81)		Georgia Academy for the Blind ('83)	
ARIZONA	Phoenix	Charles Fegan, Executive Director		Richard Hyer, Jr., Superintendent	
Services for the Blind Section ('81)		FLORIDA	Miami	HAWAII	Honolulu
Evan R. Fullmer, Manager		Florida Association of Workers for the Blind ('81)		Services for the Blind Branch ('79)	
Scottsdale		Vernon Metcalf, Executive Director		Beatrice Higuchi, Administrator	
Foundation for Blind Children ('81)		St. Augustine		ILLINOIS	Chicago
Margaret L. Bluhm, Executive Director		Department for the Blind, ('80)		Chicago Lighthouse for the Blind ('81)	
Tucson		Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind		Milton Samuelson, Acting Executive Director	
Department for the Visually Handicapped, Arizona State School for the Deaf and the Blind ('80)		William J. McClure, President		Community Services for the Visually Handicapped ('79)	
Ralph Hoag, Superintendent		Tallahassee		Peter Paul, Superintendent	
ARKANSAS	Little Rock	Florida Division of Blind Services ('79)		Illinois Visually Handicapped Institute ('80)	
Arkansas Enterprises for the Blind ('79)		Donald H. Wedewer, Director		Thomas J. Murphy, Superintendent	
Howard H. Hanson, Executive Director		Tampa		ILLINOIS	Jacksonville
Arkansas School for the Blind ('81)		Tampa Lighthouse for the Blind ('82)		Illinois School for the Visually Impaired ('80)	
J.M. Woolly, Superintendent		C.E. Olstrom, Executive Director		Richard G. Umsted, Superintendent	
Arkansas State Office for the Blind and Visually Impaired ('81)		GEORGIA	Atlanta		Winnetka
Louis H. Rives, Jr., Administrator		Atlanta Area Services for the Blind ('81)		Hadley School for the Blind ('79)	
		Robert J. Crouse, Executive Director		Richard Kinney, President	

* Following the name of the agency or school is the year in which it is next scheduled for consideration for extension of accreditation.

INDIANA	Evansville	MICHIGAN (cont'd)	Lansing	NEW YORK (cont'd)	Bronx
Evansville Association for the Blind Frank E. Kern, Executive Director	('79)	Michigan School for the Blind Nancy J. Bryant, Superintendent	('81)	New York Institute for the Education of the Blind Roger C. Walker, Director	('83)
IOWA	Vinton	MINNESOTA	Minneapolis		Buffalo
Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School Richard M. DeMott, Superintendent	('81)	Minneapolis Society for the Blind Jesse H. Rosten, Executive Director	('81)	Blind Association of Western New York Stanley J. Grenn, Executive Director	('82)
KANSAS	Topeka				New York
Services for the Blind and Visually Handicapped Richard A. Schutz, Director	('81)	MISSISSIPPI	Hazlehurst	Industrial Home for the Blind Joseph J. Larkin, Executive Director	('80)
LOUISIANA	Shreveport		Jackson	Jewish Guild for the Blind John F. Heimerdinger, Executive Director	('82)
Shreveport Association for the Blind John L. Radcliffe, Executive Director	('80)	Vocational Rehabilitation for the Blind James L. Carballo, Director	('83)	New York Association for the Blind Wesley D. Sprague, Executive Director	('80)
MAINE	Augusta	MISSOURI	Kansas City	Recording for the Blind Stuart Carothers, Executive Director	('82)
Division of Eye Care Paul E. Rourke, Director	('80)	Kansas City Association for the Blind Elva Hayes, Executive Director	('81)		
MARYLAND	Baltimore	NEW HAMPSHIRE	Concord		Rochester
Maryland School for the Blind Richard Welsh, Superintendent	('80)	New Hampshire Association for the Blind Gale N. Stickler, Executive Director	('84)	Association for the Blind of Rochester and Monroe County Judith D. Peters, Executive Director	('80)
MASSACHUSETTS	Brookline	NEW JERSEY	Jersey City		Syracuse
Massachusetts Association for the Blind James E. Ryder, Executive Director	('80)	St. Joseph's School for the Blind Sr. Mary Kuiken, CSJ, Administrator	('79)	Syracuse Association of Workers for the Blind Milton Rosenblum, Executive Director	('82)
	Watertown	NEW YORK	Albany		Utica
Perkins School for the Blind Charles C. Woodcock, Director	('80)	Albany Association of the Blind Joseph Kirstein, Acting Executive Director	('81)	Central Association for the Blind Donald D. LoGuidice, Executive Director	('79)
MICHIGAN	Detroit		Binghamton		Yorktown Heights
Greater Detroit Society for the Blind McAllister Upshaw, Executive Director	('81)	Blind Work Association Conrad Range, Managing Director	('81)	Guiding Eyes for the Blind Donald Z. Kauth, Executive Director	('83)

NORTH CAROLINA	Raleigh	OREGON	Salem	TEXAS (cont'd)
Governor Morehead School ('82) Samuel J. Cole, Superintendent		Oregon School ('80) for the Blind Donald H. Edwards, Director		Dallas Services for ('81) Visually Impaired Children Chris Tompkins, Executive Director
OHIO	Cincinnati	PENNSYLVANIA	Lancaster	Houston
Cincinnati Association ('79) for the Blind Milton A. Jahoda, Executive Director		Lancaster County Branch, ('79) Pennsylvania Association for the Blind Marion R. Campbell, Executive Director		Lighthouse for the Blind ('81) of Houston Ray R. Kaebler, General Manager
Clovernook Home and ('80) School for the Blind Gerald W. Mundy, Executive Director		Pittsburgh	UTAH	Ogden
	Cleveland	Pittsburgh Branch, ('80) Pennsylvania Association for the Blind Dennis J. Huber, Executive Director		Utah School for the Blind ('81) Robert W. Tegeder, Superintendent
Cleveland Society ('79) for the Blind Cleo B. Dolan, Executive Director				
	Columbus	RHODE ISLAND	Providence	VIRGINIA
Ohio State School ('80) for the Blind Dennis L. Holmes, Superintendent		Rhode Island Association ('79) for the Blind Robert H. Carolan, Executive Director		Richmond
Vision Center of Central ('79) Ohio Robert E. Mathews, Executive Director				Virginia Commission ('79) for the Visually Handicapped William T. Coppage, Director
	Toledo	Rhode Island State ('81) Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired E. Lyman D'Andrea, Administrator		WASHINGTON
Toledo Society ('81) for the Blind Barry A. McEwen, Executive Director				Seattle
OKLAHOMA	Muskogee	SOUTH DAKOTA	Pierre	WEST VIRGINIA
Parkview School ('80) V. R. Carter, Superintendent		Division of Service ('80) to the Visually Impaired David Vogel, Director		Romney
	Oklahoma City	TENNESSEE	Donelson	West Virginia School ('80) for the Blind Jack W. Brady, Superintendent
Division of Visual ('80) Services Travis Harris, Director		Tennessee School ('80) for the Blind Garland Cross, Superintendent		WISCONSIN
Oklahoma League ('81) for the Blind LeRoy Saunders, Executive Director		TEXAS	Dallas	Janesville
		Dallas County ('80) Association for the Blind Austin G. Scott, Executive Director		Milwaukee
				Industries for the Blind ('81) Claude W. Hirsh, Executive Vice President

COMMISSION ON ACCREDITATION

Otis H. Stephens, Ph.D.
Chairman
Knoxville, Tennessee

Samuel J. Cole
Raleigh, North Carolina

Howard H. Hanson
Little Rock, Arkansas

Ruth Kaarlela, Ph.D.
Kalamazoo, Michigan

Wilmer H. Kingsford
Madison, New Jersey

Elizabeth M. Maloney
Brooklyn, New York

James D. McComas, Ed.D.
Mississippi State,
Mississippi

Austin G. Scott
Dallas, Texas

Dean Tuttle, Ph.D.
Greeley, Colorado

SPONSORING MEMBERS

Sponsoring Members: organizations of national or international scope, not eligible to apply for accreditation, with responsibility for quality services to blind and visually handicapped persons; they are voting members of the Council.

American Association of Workers for the
Blind (AAWB)

American Council of the Blind (ACB)

Association for Education of the
Visually Handicapped

The General Council of Workshops for the Blind

International Services for the Blind

National Braille Association

SUPPORTERS

Supporters: organizations not eligible to apply for accreditation, interested in quality services to blind and visually handicapped persons, and wishing to be publicly identified with the Council's work.

American Council of the Blind of New York
State

American Foundation for the Blind

Arizona Association of Workers With
the Blind

Arkansas Chapter, AAWB

Arkansas Council of the Blind

Choice Magazine Listening

Delta Gamma Foundation

Gopher State Blind Associates,
Minnesota ACB

The Hartford Graduate Center

Helen Keller International, Inc.

Illinois Association of Workers for the Blind

Illinois Federation of the Blind, ACB

The Matilda Ziegler Magazine for the Blind

National Industries for the Blind

National Society to Prevent Blindness

New York State Association of Workers for
the Blind

Oklahoma Chapter, AAWB

Richmond Host Lions Club



Accreditation by NAC signifies that an agency or school meets nationally accepted standards for quality services, responsible management, and public accountability.

RECEIVED

JUN 21 1979

S. N.

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No. 33

Summer, 1979

NAC TO DEVELOP STANDARDS FOR LOW VISION CLINIC SERVICES

Wesley D. Sprague, chairman of the Commission on Standards announces that NAC intends to develop accreditation standards for low vision clinic services. This step, according to Sprague, will be taken in response to urging from the field and leaders in the medical and optometric communities that NAC should develop these standards.

When the two-year project is concluded, recognized standards will be available for the first time for the accreditation of low vision clinics that render quality services. The standards also are expected to stimulate improvements in all clinics and create an awareness of the need for additional ones to serve the six million Americans who are estimated to be potential beneficiaries of this service.

See the next issue of The Standard-Bearer for more details.

THREE MORE ACB AFFILIATES BECOME NAC SUPPORTERS

Three more State affiliates of the American Council of the Blind (ACB), have publicly identified with NAC as official Supporting members since the last issue of The Standard-Bearer: Louisiana Council of the Blind, Michigan Association of the Blind, and Oklahoma Council of the Blind. Presently seven ACB chapters are NAC Supporters. The American Council of the Blind is itself a Sponsoring member.

NOMINATIONS, PLEASE

NAC cordially invites all interested persons and organizations of or for the blind to submit names of persons to the Nominating Committee for consideration as candidates for election to NAC's Board of Directors.

Morton Pepper, chairman of the Committee, points out that twelve directors (including nine who are blind) complete their terms in November. Five are not eligible to be nominated for another term. They include NAC officers Louis H. Rives, Jr., William T. Coppage, and John P. McWilliams, Jr., who will be rotating off the Board and are ineligible for renomination. NAC's bylaws provide that at least one-third of the directors to be elected are members of national organizations of the blind or persons suggested by them.

You can help by suggesting qualified candidates who have a strong commitment to NAC and a desire to assist NAC in achieving its goals.

OKLAHOMA CITY -- SITE FOR 1979 MEMBERSHIP AND BOARD MEETINGS

NAC has accepted the invitation of several accredited members and Supporters in Oklahoma to hold its 1979 Membership and Board meetings in Oklahoma City. The meetings are scheduled for November 10 and 11, at the Sheraton-Century Center Hotel. The annual meeting will be held the afternoon of November 10, followed by a reception and dinner. NAC's Board of Directors will meet the morning of November 11.

Co-hosting the 1979 meetings will be three accredited agencies -- Oklahoma Division of Visual Services, Oklahoma League for the Blind, and Parkview School for the Blind; and two NAC Supporters -- Oklahoma chapter of the American Association of Workers for the Blind, and the Oklahoma Council of the Blind (ACB).

The Membership and Board meetings are open and observers are welcome. If you wish to attend either or both of these meetings, please notify NAC by September 30 so that adequate seating space can be secured. If you would like to address the Board or bring a specific matter to its attention, your request should be received by September 30.

CALIFORNIA RESOLUTIONS

Recently two California organizations passed resolutions endorsing NAC.

The American Council of the Blind of California "urges" that State's Department of Rehabilitation "to secure the services or to require that the services of NAC be secured to make appraisals of all agencies with whom the Department makes agreements to serve the blind."

The Southern California Chapter of the American Association of Workers for the Blind resolves that the Department of Rehabilitation "seek accreditation in the field of services to the visually handicapped through the National Accreditation Council."

STANDARDS AVAILABLE IN MICROFICHE

The federal Education Resources Information Center (ERIC) has added NAC's self-study and evaluation guides to its national information network. Microfiche copies of each guide may be purchased from ERIC at nominal cost.

Microfiche text can be enlarged through specially equipped microfiche reading machines. This means visually handicapped persons who are able to benefit from closed circuit television reading machines will also be able to read NAC's accreditation standards using microfiche.

For more information contact ERIC at: ERIC Document Reproduction Service, P.O. Box 190, Arlington, Virginia 22210.

NATIONAL C-3 STANDARDS REVIEW

Owen R. Davison, chairman of the national technical committee for the review and revision of standards for personnel administration and volunteer service, has announced that the national review draft of proposed revisions is now available for review and testing by the field.

Mr. Davison invites all interested persons and organizations of or for the blind to review the current and proposed standards and to send in comments and suggestions for improving them. All comments and suggestions received during the national review, which extends to December 31, 1979, will be carefully considered by the national technical committee before it submits its final report.

Use the special order form below to order copies of the current standards and the national review draft. The recorded edition of the present standards (Section C-3, Personnel Administration and Volunteer Service) is available on loan from Recording for the Blind, 215 East 58th Street, New York, New York 10022. Blind and visually handicapped persons can borrow a cassette of the national review draft from NAC.

A discussion of the proposed standards will take place during the 1979 Biennial Conference of the American Association of Workers for the Blind in Oklahoma City on July 17. The discussion, to which all interested persons are invited, will be led by Mr. Davison and will be sponsored by AAWB's Interest Group I.

Other committee members are: Mr. L. Alan Bosch, AFL-CIO, Dept. of Community Services; Mr. William J. Flynn, President, National Health and Welfare Mutual Life Insurance Association, Inc.; Mrs. Elizabeth Graham, Coordinator of Volunteers, Sacramento Society for the Blind; Mr. John Heimerdinger, Executive Director, Jewish Guild for the Blind, NYC; Mrs. Carolyn H. Leitch, Volunteer Coordinator, Florida Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped; Dr. James W. Mann, Chairman, Dept. of Education, University of Mississippi; Dr. William J. McClure, Superintendent, Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind; Mr. LeRoy F. Saunders, Executive Director, Oklahoma League for the Blind, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Mr. Paul L. Scher, Corporate Manager, Handicapped Program, Sears, Roebuck and Co., Chicago, Illinois.

ORDER FORM

Yes, I want to participate in revising NAC's standards for personnel administration and volunteer service (Self-Study and Evaluation Guide, Section C-3). Please send me these materials:

Edition	Price	Quantity	Amount
1968 Edition (currently in effect).....	\$1.50	_____	\$_____
1979 National Review Draft.....	1.50	_____	_____
TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED			\$_____

(OVER)

UPDATE ON PLANS FOR HELEN KELLER CONGRESS

NAC's Board of Directors, Commission on Standards, and Commission on Accreditation plan to hold meetings in conjunction with the Helen Keller Congress in Boston in June, 1980. The Board meeting, which is open to the public, will take place on Wednesday, June 25 at the Sheraton-Boston Hotel.

The Congress will provide a setting for many diverse organizations concerned with services for blind and deaf-blind persons to exchange information on programs, resources and methods; to set goals and priorities for the future; and to make recommendations for action. NAC voted during its annual meetings last year "to participate to the fullest extent in the Helen Keller Congress."

Focus of the Congress will be on three age groups; the Early Years, the Working Years, and the Older Years; and on Rights, Privileges, and Responsibilities. The Congress is co-sponsored by the American Foundation for the Blind and the Affiliated Leadership League of and for the Blind of America.

1978 ANNUAL REPORT AVAILABLE IN PRINT AND RECORDED FORM

Additional copies of NAC's 1978 Annual Report are available in print and on flexible disc from NAC, free upon request. The Report includes the audited financial report and a review of one of NAC's most productive years. It covers the period from July 1, 1977 to June 30, 1978.

Included on the flexible disc are "Facts About NAC" and an excerpt from NAC's standards referring to the "Rights of Consumers."

NAC is recognized by the U.S. Commissioner of Education as the reliable authority as to the quality of training offered by special schools for the blind and visually handicapped.

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Winter, 1980

1979 NAC MEETINGS - A SPIRITED SUCCESS

NAC's 1979 annual meetings undoubtedly will be remembered as one of the most significant conferences of the decade. Held in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, on November 10-11, 1979, the meetings produced far-reaching decisions and brought together many key leaders of national organizations of and for the blind and representatives of NAC's accredited members, Sponsors and Supporters.

Five Oklahoma organizations hosted the meetings. They were NAC-accredited organizations: Oklahoma Division of Visual Services, Oklahoma League for the Blind, and Parkview School; and official Supporters: Oklahoma Chapter, American Association of Workers for the Blind (AAWB), and the Oklahoma Council of the Blind (ACB).

The meetings were highlighted by a panel discussion on how NAC's accreditation program has helped to improve workshop services. Richard Johnstone, president of the Minneapolis Society for the Blind (MSB) gave a captivating account of the successful campaign to elect a new Board of Directors for MSB. He explained how NAC had helped the Society achieve a decisive victory in an unusual election which prevented the National Federation of the Blind from taking over the Society.

Other panelists who discussed how NAC had assisted their workshops to improve their services and management were: Peter W. Connelly, president of the Association for the Blind of Rochester and Monroe County; Donald H. LoGuidice, executive director of the Central Association for the Blind, Utica, New York; and LeRoy F. Saunders, executive director of the Oklahoma League for the Blind, Oklahoma City.

Louis H. Rives, Jr. presented his final report as president. He recapped NAC's most important accomplishments during his four-year presidency, and also pointed to disappointments and challenges for the future. Rives concluded by stating, "I want to thank you for the chance I've had to serve you as president for four years, and to express my sincere confidence in the new leadership but most of all, in the commitment and faith and belief and desire to serve blind people that exists in this organization. This is our trump card. This is our guarantee of success".

Among the actions taken by the Board of Directors were: (1) to raise the annual dues ceiling for accredited agencies and Sponsors from \$1,000 to \$1,250 on January 1, 1980, and to \$1,500 on January 1, 1981; (2) to call for an independent study of the impact of NAC's accreditation program and the need for accountability in services for blind and visually handicapped people; (3) to approve a long range plan for fiscal years 1981-85; and (4) to accept the invitation of the Minneapolis Society for the Blind and the Gopher State Blind Associates (ACB) to hold NAC's 1980 annual meetings in Minneapolis, Minnesota on November 15-16.

STEPHENS NEW PRESIDENT, OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS ELECTED

Otis H. Stephens, Knoxville, Tennessee, was elected president of NAC for a two-year term by the Board of Directors during its meeting in Oklahoma City. Dr. Stephens had served as chairman of the Commission on Accreditation since 1976. He succeeds Louis H. Rives, Jr.

Dr. Stephens is professor of political science at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. He also is president of the Tennessee Council of the Blind (ACB) and serves on the executive council of the Southern Political Science Association.

Other officers, elected for one-year terms, are: Morton Pepper, first vice-president; George E. Stocking, second vice-president; C. Owen Pollard, third vice-president; Mrs. Joseph Clifford, secretary; Claire W. Carlson, treasurer. Elected for one-year terms as members-at-large of the Executive Committee are: Raymond A. Kempf and Austin G. Scott.

At its meeting on November 10, the corporate membership elected six new Board members and reelected six others for three-year terms. New members are: Peter W. Connelly, manager, Multinational Materials Management, Xerox Corporation and president, Association for the Blind of Rochester and Monroe County, New York; Vernon Metcalf, executive director, Florida Association of Workers for the Blind, Miami; LeRoy F. Saunders, executive director, Oklahoma League for the Blind and vice-president, General Council of Workshops for the Blind, Oklahoma City; Dean W. Tuttle, professor, University of Northern Colorado, Greeley; Evelyn Ullman, former president, Atlanta Area Services for the Blind, Georgia; and Richard G. Umsted, superintendent, Illinois School for the Visually Impaired and president-elect, Association for Education of the Visually Handicapped, Jacksonville. Reelected were: Raymond A. Kempf, Joseph J. Larkin, Robert T. McLean, Oral O. Miller, Ronald L. Miller and Daniel D. Robinson.

Four of the twelve elected were suggested by the American Council of the Blind; one was suggested by the Blind Veterans Association.

PROGRESS REPORT - STANDARDS FOR PERSONNEL AND VOLUNTEERS

Owen R. Davison, chairman of the national technical committee for the revision of standards for personnel administration and volunteer service, has announced that the national review phase of this project, which began with a discussion of the proposed standards during the biennial conference of the American Association of Workers for the Blind, has been completed.

The technical committee will consider all suggestions received during the review and is expected to submit proposed new standards to the Commission on Standards during the Helen Keller Centennial Congress in June, 1980. The new self-study and evaluation guide for personnel administration and volunteer service will be published this summer in inkprint and in alternative media for blind readers.

SUPPORTERS ON THE MOVE

Recently, five affiliates of the American Council of the Blind passed resolutions calling for increased reliance upon or support for NAC. They are: ACB of New York State; Illinois Federation of the Blind; Iowa Council of the Blind; Michigan Association of the Blind; and the South Dakota Association of the Blind. Several of the resolutions urge the State's vocational rehabilitation agency to seek accreditation and to adopt a policy that would encourage non-governmental agencies to achieve accreditation. The other resolutions urge the federal Rehabilitation Services Administration to resume financial support for NAC.

NAC BEGINS LOW VISION PROJECT: YOUR SUGGESTIONS WELCOME

Milton Jahoda, chairman of the national technical committee to develop standards for low vision services, has announced that the national review draft of the proposed standards is available now for consideration and testing by the field.

The two-year project, made possible by grants from several foundations and corporations, will result in the first set of accreditation standards for low vision services. The project, planned for completion in 1981, will help assure that low vision services are provided and evaluated in the light of nationally accepted standards for "best practice".

Mr. Jahoda invites you to review the national review draft and to suggest how the proposed standards might be improved. All suggestions received during the national review, which extends until September 30, 1980, will be considered by the committee as it prepares its final recommendations. A suggestion form accompanies each copy of the draft.

Major Topics Covered. The standards include:

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Planning and organization | 6. Instruction and Training |
| 2. Personnel | 7. Follow-Up Services |
| 3. Outreach and Casefinding | 8. Re-Evaluation |
| 4. Admissions Process | 9. Facilities and Equipment |
| 5. Low Vision Evaluation | 10. Program Evaluation |

Format. The draft is cast in the form of a self-study and evaluation guide for use in NAC's accreditation program. The format lends itself well to use in planning, delivering and evaluating low vision services provided in a wide variety of settings: hospitals, medical and optometric schools, and "free standing" programs. Private practitioners will be interested in the proposed standards even though they cannot apply for NAC accreditation.

ORDER NOW

Use the order form below for copies of the national review draft.

ORDER FORM FOR SECTION D-9

Yes, I want to participate in developing NAC's standards for low vision services. Please send the following number of copies of the draft for my review.

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MEMBERS OF THE LOW VISION COMMITTEE

In addition to Mr. Jahoda, executive director of the Cincinnati Association for the Blind and chairman, other members of the national technical committee are:

NATALIE C. BARRAGA, Ed.D., coordinator, Visually Handicapped Program, University of Texas

WILLIAM T. COPPAGE, director, Virginia Commission for the Visually Handicapped

ELEANOR C. FAYE, M. D., director, Low Vision Services, The New York Association for the Blind, and chairman, Low Vision Committee, American Academy of Ophthalmology

SAMUEL M. GENENSKY, Ph.D., director, Center for the Partially Sighted, Santa Monica Hospital Center, and president, Council of Citizens with Low Vision, American Council of the Blind

GREGORY L. GOODRICH, Ph.D., psychologist, Editor of Low Vision Abstracts, and chairman, Interest Group on Low Vision Services of the American Association of Workers for the Blind

ALDEN H. HAFFNER, Ph.D., O.D., associate chancellor for health services, State university of New York

RANDALL T. JOSE, O.D., director, William Feinbloom Vision Rehabilitation Center, Philadelphia

ALFRED A. ROSENBLOOM, Jr., O.D., president, Illinois College of Optometry

ELLSWORTH L. SHARPE, aerospace research engineer, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and vice-president, Blinded Veterans Association

PHILLIP A. SHELTON, M.D., Eye Physicians Associates of Hartford, Connecticut

KENT T. WARDELL, instructor, Department of Special Education, State University at Los Angeles, and chairman, Interest Group on Orientation and Mobility of the American Association of Workers for the Blind.

ORDER FORM

Send this form with your check payable to:

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ACCREDITATION ACTIONS

At its June and December, 1979 meetings, the Commission on Accreditation accredited three organizations for the first time, reaccredited ten, and withdrew the accreditation of one.

As of December 31, 1979, 79 agencies and schools were accredited by NAC. The newly accredited organizations are: Association for the Blind and for Sight Conservation (Grand Rapids, Michigan), William J. Leeder, Jr., executive vice president; New Mexico School for the Visually Handicapped (Alamogordo), Jerry Watkins, superintendent; and Volunteer Blind Industries (Morristown, Tennessee), J. C. Austin, executive director.

Reaccredited were: Arkansas Enterprises for the Blind (Little Rock); Florida Division of Blind Services (Tallahassee); Hadley School for the Blind (Winnetka, Illinois); St. Joseph's School for the Blind (Jersey City, New Jersey); Cincinnati Association for the Blind (Ohio); Cleveland Society for the Blind (Ohio); Vision Center of Central Ohio (Columbus); Lancaster County Branch, Pennsylvania Association for the Blind; Rhode Island Association for the Blind (Providence); and Virginia Commission for the Visually Handicapped (Richmond).

In other actions, three new applications were postponed, and the accreditation of four organizations was extended based upon evidence of continued compliance with NAC standards. The accreditation of the Massachusetts Association for the Blind (Brookline) was withdrawn for failure to meet its membership obligations.

Dr. Dean W. Tuttle was recently appointed by president Otis H. Stephens to chair NAC's Commission on Accreditation. Dr. Tuttle, professor in the department of education of the visually handicapped at the University of Northern Colorado, had served as a member of the Commission for four years.

NAC ADOPTS NEW POLICY ON NFB

At its meeting on November 11, 1979, the Board of Directors unanimously adopted a new policy concerning the National Federation of the Blind (NFB). The statement expresses the belief that NFB's present national leadership is "harmful to the welfare of blind and visually handicapped persons through its opposition to standards and accreditation".

Earlier, Louis H. Rives, Jr., commented on the NFB. Referring to his four-year NAC presidency, he stated, "One of my greatest disappointments was that we could not reach an accommodation with NFB I wanted us to work together. Every effort I made to create a cooperative working relationship was rebuffed. Instead, the national leadership of NFB sought to discredit NAC, to destroy NAC, to harrass agencies seeking accreditation, to harrass potential grantors to NAC, and to pressure the federal government There was no evidence of desire on their part to participate in our governance or in the deliberations of our committees or Commissions or in the on-site review process. Now we must work together to bring into being a way to tell the truth about us, the truth about them, and to dispel the fictions about both sides which have been exploited to the detriment of work for the blind".

The statement asserts that "NAC does not recognize the present national NFB leadership as a responsible influence in the provision of quality services". Concluding, it reaffirms NAC's "commitment to work with all organizations and individuals - including members of NFB - who support quality services through standards and accreditation".

AFB, OTHERS URGE RSA SUPPORT FOR NAC

In recent months, a substantial number of letters have been sent to Congressmen from consumers, agencies and workers in the field of services for the blind, urging that the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) resume direct funding to NAC. Many of the letters were precipitated by an article in the June, 1979 American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) Newsletter. The article, entitled "Standards for Accreditation The Way to Better Services" was written by AFB executive director, Loyal E. Apple.

In the article, Mr. Apple applauded the manner in which NAC is conducting its accreditation program. He noted that "when a new RSA Commissioner was appointed in 1974, political pressure began to build to end RSA support for Standards for Accreditation in the areas of work for and with blind persons". In March, 1975, RSA terminated NAC's grant. Mr. Apple added, "We have requested that the current Commissioner review this situation in light of the continuing contributions that NAC is making through its Standards for Accreditation and its accreditation process".

RSA CLARIFIES POSITION ON NAC

Dr. Robert J. Winn, director of the Bureau for Blind and Visually Handicapped, RSA, has clarified RSA's position on NAC. According to Dr. Winn, federal financial participation is available to cover NAC accreditation costs incurred by agencies that provide rehabilitation services. He also has declared that RSA is committed to giving equal treatment to NAC as other organizations in the awarding of grants.

NAC NOTES

In July, an out-of-court settlement was reached with the National Eye Care Association (NECA) ending a two-year lawsuit against NAC. NAC's president, Louis H. Rives, Jr., said, "The settlement proclaims NAC's innocence of all charges. And it confirms that there is no truth whatsoever to the claims that NAC or its executive director ever wrongfully interfered with NECA". In the mutual release signed by all parties, NECA acknowledged that "on the basis of further investigation, it appears that Defendants would prevail on the merits at trial". In August, 1977, NAC and its executive director, Dr. Richard W. Bleecker, were sued jointly and severally for \$10 million by NECA, which had claimed that NAC and Dr. Bleecker had waged a calculated campaign to "destroy" NECA's "business potential and very existence".

The June, 1979 issue of The Philanthropy Monthly features the article "Can self regulation work in philanthropy?" which discusses the important role of voluntary accreditation in general, and NAC, specifically, in services for blind people.

Charity U.S.A. is the name of a new book on the "hidden world of the multi-billion dollar charity industry". In chapter 12, "The Battle of the Blind", author Carl Bakal digs into the hidden world of Kenneth Jernigan's NFB and uncovers murky financial dealings and questionable politics.

Any of you who want to join NAC as an individual member are invited to become a "Standard-Bearer" for a \$10 annual dues payment.

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Pass this issue among your colleagues. For additional copies of this issue, please contact NAC.

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This report highlights a specific provision of the Federal Civil Service Reform Act. Of special interest to state and local government personnel managers, the provision widens the options of those who seek to make the fullest possible use of the abilities of blind and deaf employees.

A little publicized, but significant provision of the Civil Service Reform Act, (CSRA) authorizes Federal agencies to employ paid readers for blind employees and interpreters for deaf employees. This new authority gives the Federal government greater flexibility in the hiring and advancement of persons with visual or hearing handicaps.

Prior to CSRA, a reading assistant for a blind employee could be employed by an agency to serve as a volunteer without pay, or the reader could be paid by the blind employee or a nonprofit organization. In January 1979, CSRA extended authority for the use of unpaid volunteers to include interpreting assistants for deaf employees, in addition to authorizing the employment of both readers and interpreters as paid employees of an agency.

Federal agencies may hire paid reading assistants for blind employees and interpreting assistants for deaf employees under excepted, noncompetitive appointment authority. Paid readers and interpreters may be employed on a full-time, part-time, or intermittent basis and may only perform work which is directly related to the provision of reading or interpreting services. A person employed as a reader usually is assigned to assist a specific employee.

Because an efficient working relationship requires an element of compatibility between the two people involved, the blind employee generally participates in the selection process. Likewise, the deaf employee who is to be accommodated is consulted in the hiring of an interpreter, since interpreting calls for different skills depending upon the particular service desired, e.g., platform interpreting, reverse interpreting, or interpreting for deaf persons with minimum language ability.

Agencies also have the authority to assign reading and interpreting duties to present employees on a part-time or "as required" basis. Often a co-worker performing clerical services for a blind employee will provide reading assistance.

Intergovernmental Personnel

Notes

Published by the Office of Personnel Management, Office of Intergovernmental Personnel Programs, P.O. Box 14184, Washington, D.C.

ance as well; and those who have gained sufficient skill with sign language may provide day-to-day communication services for their deaf colleagues. Additionally, agencies are authorized to let personal service contracts to obtain professional interpreters for conferences, meetings, court appearances, and



Virtually all of these jobs require access in various degrees to materials presented verbally, emphasizing the extent to which readers and interpreters can help to meet the communication needs of blind and deaf employees.

other special activities necessitating rapid communication of detailed information.

Although specific information on reader and interpreter utilization in the Federal government is not currently available, there is wide opportunity to facilitate the employment and career progression of blind and deaf individuals through on-the-job assistance. The accompanying table lists the top white collar occupations frequently held by vision impaired and hearing impaired Federal workers. The more than 1,700 handicapped employees who are in these occupations, represent professional and technical career fields as well as administrative and clerical specialties.

Reprinted by the American Foundation for the Blind, Office of Henry B. Stern, National Consultant on Employment.

For Your Information
HENRY B. STERN

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E. T. R

Top 20 White Collar Occupations Frequently Held By Visually Impaired Individuals			
	Unable to Read Ordinary Print	Blind in Both Eyes	Total
Contact Representative	70	156	226
Clerk (Dictating Machine Transcribing)	19	89	108
General Clerical and Administrative	85	17	102
Nursing Assistant	93	0	93
Clerk Typist	56	12	68
Mail and File	31	2	33
Supply (Clerical Technician)	28	3	31
Computer Specialist	13	18	31
Nurse	30	0	30
General Attorney	10	15	25
Engineering Technician	20	1	21
Social Work	10	11	21
Equal Opportunity	9	11	20
General Health Scientist	7	12	19
Personnel Clerical and Assistance	7	11	18
Psychology	6	10	16
Secretary	15	0	15
Social Insurance Administrator	12	2	14
Fire Protection and Prevention	13	0	13
General Engineering	13	0	13
			917

Top 20 White Collar Occupations Frequently Held By Hearing Impaired Individuals			
	Total Deafness in Both Ears		
Card Punch Operator	210		
General Clerical and Administrative	121		
Mail and File	97		
Clerk Typist	86		
Supply (Clerical Technician)	32		
Computer Specialist	27		
Cartographic Technician	27		
Tax Accounting	26		
Accounting	25		
Computer Aid and Technician	24		
Student Aid	21		
Computer Operation	19		
Engineering Drafting	17		
Procurement, Clerical	16		
Engineering Technician	14		
Accounting Technician	14		
General Accounting (Clerical and Administrative)	14		
Military Personnel Technician	12		
Office Machine Operation	12		
Illustrating	12		
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May-June 1980

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Accreditation by NAC signifies that an agency or school for the blind meets nationally accepted standards for quality services, responsible management, and public accountability.

Two dates appear for each agency or school: the year when accreditation was first achieved; and the year through which accreditation is awarded.

This list of accredited members assists blind and visually handicapped people to select quality services. And it assists the public - which supports these services through contributions and taxes - to identify agencies and schools that are demonstrating their effectiveness and accountability.

ALABAMA

Alabama School for the Blind; Talladega
George H. Dabbs, Principal (78-82)

Department of Adult Blind and Deaf of the
Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind; Talladega
George G. McFaden, Director (77-83)

ARIZONA

Services for the Blind Section; Phoenix
Evan R. Fuller, Manager (71-81)

Foundation for Blind Children; Scottsdale
Margaret L. Bluhm, Executive Director (78-81)

Department for the Visually Handicapped, Arizona
State School for the Deaf and the Blind; Tucson
Ralph L. Hoag, Superintendent (72-80)

ARKANSAS

Arkansas Enterprises for the Blind; Little Rock
Howard H. Hanson, Executive Director (69-84)

Arkansas School for the Blind; Little Rock
J. M. Woolly, Superintendent (69-81)

Arkansas State Office for the Blind and
Visually Impaired; Little Rock
Louis H. Rives, Jr., Administrator (76-81)

CALIFORNIA

Sacramento Society for the Blind; Sacramento
Thomas C. Ryan, Executive Director (73-83)

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind
Charles A. Fegan, Executive Director (70-81)

FLORIDA

Florida Association of Workers for the Blind; Miami
Vernon Metcalf, Executive Director (78-81)

Department for the Blind, Florida School for
the Deaf and the Blind; St. Augustine
William J. McClure, President (78-80)

Florida Division of Blind Services; Tallahassee
Donald H. Wedewer, Director (74-84)

Tampa Lighthouse for the Blind; Tampa
C. E. Olstrom, Executive Director (76-82)

GEORGIA

Atlanta Area Services for the Blind; Atlanta
Carolyn Kokenge, Executive Director (72-81)

Georgia Factory for the Blind; Bainbridge
Clayton Penhallegon, Executive Director (78-80)

Georgia Academy for the Blind; Macon
Richard E. Hyer, Jr., Superintendent (78-83)

HAWAII

Services for the Blind Branch; Honolulu
Beatrice Higuchi, Administrator (72-80)

ILLINOIS

Chicago Lighthouse for the Blind; Chicago
Milton Samuelson, Executive Director (71-81)

Community Services for the Visually Handicapped;
Chicago
Peter R. Paul, Superintendent (77-81)

Illinois Visually Handicapped Institute; Chicago
Thomas J. Murphy, Superintendent (75-80)

Illinois School for the Visually Impaired;
Jacksonville
Richard G. Umsted, Superintendent (75-80)

ILLINOIS (cont'd)

Hadley School for the Blind; Winnetka
Roger D. Rouse, Acting President (70-85)

INDIANA

Evansville Association for the Blind; Evansville
Frank E. Kern, Executive Director (71-81)

IOWA

Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School; Vinton
Richard M. DeMott, Superintendent (71-81)

KANSAS

Services for the Blind and Visually Handicapped;
Topeka
Richard A. Schutz, Director (71-81)

LOUISIANA

Shreveport Association for the Blind; Shreveport
John L. Radcliffe, Executive Director (70-80)

MAINE

Division of Eye Care; Augusta
Paul E. Rourke, Director (70-80)

MARYLAND

Maryland School for the Blind; Baltimore
Richard L. Welsh, Superintendent (69-80)

MASSACHUSETTS

Perkins School for the Blind; Watertown
Charles C. Woodcock, Director (70-81)

MICHIGAN

Greater Detroit Society for the Blind; Detroit
McAllister Upshaw, Executive Director (70-81)

Association for the Blind and for Sight
Conservation; Grand Rapids (79-82)
William J. Leeder, Executive Vice-President

Michigan School for the Blind; Lansing
Nancy J. Bryant, Superintendent (70-81)

MINNESOTA

Minneapolis Society for the Blind; Minneapolis
Jesse H. Rosten, Executive Director (70-81)

MISSISSIPPI

Royal Maid; Hazlehurst
John L. Granger, Vice President (71-81)

MISSISSIPPI (cont'd)

Vocational Rehabilitation for the Blind; Jackson
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MISSOURI

Kansas City Association for the Blind; Kansas City
Elva Hayes, Executive Director (71-81)

NEW HAMPSHIRE

New Hampshire Association for the Blind; Concord
Gale N. Stickler, Executive Director (73-84)

NEW JERSEY

St. Joseph's School for the Blind; Jersey City
Sr. Mary Kuiken, CSJ, Administrator (72-81)

NEW MEXICO

New Mexico School for the Visually Handicapped;
Alamogordo
Jerry Watkins, Superintendent (79-81)

NEW YORK

Northeastern Association of the Blind at Albany;
Albany
Joseph F. Kirstein, Executive Director (75-81)

Blind Work Association; Binghamton
Conrad Range, Managing Director (71-81)

New York Institute for the Education of the
Blind; Bronx
Roger C. Walker, Director (78-83)

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Stanley J. Grenn, Executive Director (73-82)

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Joseph J. Larkin, Executive Director (71-80)

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John F. Heimerdinger, Executive Director (72-82)

New York Association for the Blind; New York
Wesley D. Sprague, Executive Director (70-80)

Recording for the Blind; New York
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Judith D. Peters, Executive Director (76-80)

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Syracuse
Milton Rosenblum, Executive Director (71-82)

Central Association for the Blind; Utica
Donald D. LoGuidice, Executive Director (77-82)

Guiding Eyes for the Blind; Yorktown Heights
Donald Z. Kauth, Executive Director (74-83)

NORTH CAROLINA

Governor Morehead School; Raleigh
Samuel J. Cole, Superintendent (72-82)

OHIO

Cincinnati Association for the Blind; Cincinnati
Milton A. Jahoda, Executive Director (69-85)

Clovernook Home and School for the Blind;
Cincinnati
Gerald W. Mundy, Executive Director (76-80)

Cleveland Society for the Blind; Cleveland
Cleo B. Dolan, Executive Director (68-82)

Ohio State School for the Blind; Columbus
Dennis L. Holmes, Superintendent (69-80)

Vision Center of Central Ohio; Columbus
Robert E. Mathews, Executive Director (75-84)

Toledo Society for the Blind; Toledo
Barry A. McEwen, Executive Director (78-81)

OKLAHOMA

Parkview School; Muskogee
Ronald M. Casey, Superintendent (70-80)

Division of Visual Services; Oklahoma City
Travis Harris, Director (78-80)

Oklahoma League for the Blind; Oklahoma City
LeRoy F. Saunders, Executive Director (78-81)

OREGON

Oregon School for the Blind; Salem
Donald H. Edwards, Director (69-80)

PENNSYLVANIA

Lancaster County Branch, Pennsylvania
Association for the Blind; Lancaster
Marion R. Campbell, Executive Director (73-82)

Pittsburgh Branch, Pennsylvania Association
for the Blind; Pittsburgh
Dennis J. Huber, Executive Director (70-80)

RHODE ISLAND

Rhode Island Association for the Blind;
Providence
Robert H. Carolan, Executive Director (68-82)

Rhode Island State Services for the Blind and
Visually Impaired; Providence
E. Lyman D'Andrea, Administrator (70-81)

SOUTH DAKOTA

Division of Service to the Visually Impaired;
Pierre
David Vogel, Director (72-80)

TENNESSEE

Tennessee School for the Blind; Donelson
Garland Cross, Superintendent (70-80)

Volunteer Blind Industries; Morristown
J.C. Austin, Executive Director (79-81)

TEXAS

Dallas County Association for the Blind; Dallas
Austin G. Scott, Executive Director (70-80)

Dallas Services for Visually Impaired Children;
Dallas
Chris Tompkins, Executive Director (70-81)

Lighthouse for the Blind of Houston; Houston
Ray R. Kaebler, General Manager (69-81)

UTAH

Utah School for the Blind; Ogden
Robert W. Tegeder, Superintendent (76-81)

VIRGINIA

Virginia Commission for the Visually Handicapped;
Richmond
William T. Coppage, Director (69-84)

WASHINGTON

Lighthouse for the Blind; Seattle
George Jacobson, Executive Director (71-81)

WEST VIRGINIA

West Virginia School for the Blind; Romney
Jack W. Brady, Superintendent (76-80)

WISCONSIN

Wisconsin School for the Visually Handicapped;
Janesville
William H. English, Superintendent (73-83)

Industries for the Blind; Milwaukee
Claude W. Hirsh, Executive Vice President (78-81)

The following organizations are committed to quality services to blind and visually handicapped persons. They officially endorse and recognize NAC as the accrediting body in the field; they are not eligible, however, to apply for accreditation.

SPONSORING MEMBERS

Affiliated Leadership League of and for the Blind of America

American Association of Workers for the Blind (AAWB)

American Council of the Blind (ACB)

Association for Education of the Visually Handicapped

General Council of Workshops for the Blind

International Services for the Blind

National Braille Association

National Industries for the Blind

SUPPORTING MEMBERS

American Council of the Blind of New York State

American Foundation for the Blind

Arizona Association of Workers With the Blind

Arkansas Chapter, AAWB

Arkansas Council of the Blind

Delta Gamma Foundation

Gopher State Blind Associates, Minnesota ACB

Hartford Graduate Center

Helen Keller International

Illinois Association of Workers for the Blind, AAWB

Illinois Federation of the Blind, ACB

Louisiana Council of the Blind

Matilda Ziegler Magazine for the Blind

Michigan Association for the Blind, ACB

National Society to Prevent Blindness

New York State Association of Workers for the Blind, AAWB

Oklahoma Chapter, AAWB

Oklahoma Council of the Blind, ACB

Richmond Host Lions Club

The U.S. Commissioner of Education recognizes NAC as the reliable authority as to the quality of training offered by special schools for the blind and visually handicapped.



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NATIONAL ACCREDITATION COUNCIL

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Spring 1980

JUN 17 1980

NAC TO MEET IN BOSTON

S. I.

NAC will take an active part in celebrating the 100th anniversary of the birth of Helen Keller through its participation in the Helen Keller Centennial Congress, which takes place in Boston during the week of June 22-28.

The Board of Directors will hold its meeting on Wednesday, June 25 from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the Commonwealth Room at the Boston-Sheraton Hotel. The meeting will feature a panel presentation on the benefits of NAC accreditation to special schools for the blind and visually handicapped. All interested persons are welcome to attend.

On Friday, June 27, during a general session of the Congress, NAC will present its most prestigious award, the NAC Award, to its former president, Louis H. Rives, Jr. for his outstanding contributions toward strengthening services to blind and visually handicapped persons through standards and accreditation.

RSA POLICY ON ACCREDITATION COSTS

Commissioner Robert Humphreys of the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) issued in April a statement on the costs of accreditation.

Federal rehabilitation funds may be used to "cover costs of initial accreditation and maintenance of accreditation" by private, non-profit facilities as well as State owned and operated facilities.

The statement reaffirms RSA's traditional encouragement of and support for non-governmental accreditation, and it specifically includes the National Accreditation Council within the scope of the policy.

NAC STANDARDS IN BRAILLE, ON TAPE

The National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS), the Library of Congress, has announced the availability of NAC's self-study and evaluation guides in braille and recorded forms. Eligible blind and handicapped persons can borrow these materials through their regional library for the blind and physically handicapped.

The availability of these guides in alternate media will enable blind and visually handicapped persons to play an even greater role in helping agencies and schools to apply the standards through accreditation and in helping NAC to keep the standards up-to-date.

WHAT'S NEW IN STANDARDS?

The national technical committee for the revision of accreditation standards for personnel administration and volunteer service has prepared its final report. The Commission on Standards and Board of Directors will consider the Committee's recommendations at their meetings in June.

In the Winter 1980 edition of The Standard-Bearer, the start of a two-year project to codify accreditation standards for low vision services was announced. You can obtain a copy of the draft from NAC for \$1.50.

You are invited to help perfect the draft. Comments and suggestions received by September 30, 1980 will be considered in preparing the final report.

The Commission on Standards also will discuss, at its June meeting, the remaining standards from the 1966 COMSTAC REPORT which have not yet been updated. The Commission expects to set a timetable for completing these revisions. Twenty-four of the twenty-nine self-study and evaluation guides used in accreditation already have been comprehensively revised.

ANNUAL MEETINGS, ELECTIONS PREVIEW

The 1980 Annual Membership and Board meetings will be held on November 15-16 at the Radisson South Hotel in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Three organizations will serve as co-hosts: the Minnesota Chapter of the American Association of Workers for the Blind, NAC's newest Supporter; the Gopher State Blind Associates (ACB), a NAC Supporter; and the Minneapolis Society for the Blind, a NAC-accredited agency.

The Membership meeting will be from 1:30 p.m. til 4:30 p.m. on November 15, and will be followed by an informal reception and banquet.

The Board will meet on November 16 between 9:00 a.m. and noon. The Membership and Board meetings are open to all.

Morton Pepper cordially invites all interested persons and organizations of or for the blind to submit to the Nominations Committee names of persons for consideration as candidates for election to NAC's Board of Directors at the 1980 Annual Membership meeting. Mr. Pepper, Committee chairman, points out that eleven directors complete their terms in November, including six who are rotating off the Board and are ineligible for renomination: Mrs. Joseph Clifford, Mrs. Carol M. Derouin, C. Owen Pollard, Austin G. Scott, Reese H. Robrahn and George E. Stocking. At least one-third of the directors to be elected will be members of national organizations of the blind or persons suggested by them.

Names of qualified candidates who have a strong commitment and a desire to assist NAC in achieving its goals will be accepted by Mr. Pepper through August 15.

NAC ACCREDITATION EMPHASIZED IN POSITION PAPER

The new Department of Education should use accreditation "as a reliable indicator of program quality" for all activities under its jurisdiction, according to a position paper developed recently by ten key national organizations of and for the blind, under the leadership of the American Association of Workers for the Blind. The paper, which identifies NAC as the accrediting body in the field of work with the blind, has been presented to the Hon. Shirley Hufstедler, Secretary of the new Department.

The paper discusses the rehabilitation and education needs of blind and visually handicapped persons, and makes a number of important recommendations to the Department in addition to the call for government reliance on accreditation.

STEPHENS APPOINTS CHAIRMEN

President Otis H. Stephens has announced his appointments of chairmen of NAC's Commissions and Committees.

Newly appointed are: Claire W. Carlson, Finance Committee; Huntington Harris, Program Support Committee; Daniel D. Robinson, Commission on Advancement of Standards; and Dean W. Tuttle, Commission on Accreditation.

Reappointed are: Armand P. Leco, Long Range Planning Committee; Morton Pepper, Nominations Committee; and Wesley D. Sprague, Commission on Standards.

SUMMARY REPORT OF RECENT ACCREDITATION ACTIONS

Dean W. Tuttle, chairman of the Commission on Accreditation, recently summarized the accreditation actions the Commission took during the past two years. At the four meetings held between June 1978 and December 1979, a total of eighteen agencies and schools applied for accreditation for the first time. Of these, nine were accredited, eight applications were postponed to give them additional time to make specific improvements, and one was denied. Four of the postponed applicants have subsequently achieved accredited status.

"Almost one-half of all applicants for accreditation are initially postponed," Dr. Tuttle noted. "At the same time," he continued, "the majority of these organizations are able to qualify eventually, showing the increasing determination to achieve accreditation among agencies and schools for the blind in this country."

INTERNATIONAL YEAR FOR DISABLED PERSONS - 1981

The United Nations has proclaimed 1981 as the International Year of Disabled Persons. This observance is intended to sensitize the world community to the needs of disabled people and to develop plans to more effectively meet these needs.

The United States Council for the International Year of Disabled Persons has been established to develop and carry out the program in this country. The Council will emphasize the need: to remove barriers to education, employment, buildings and transportation; to increase participation in community life; to further develop and use technology; to reduce dependency; to overcome negative stereotypes; and to reduce the occurrence or handicapping effects of disabilities.

NAC has joined the U. S. Council and expressed its support for the Council's objectives.

NAC ASSISTS WORKSHOP IN CINCINNATI

Recently, NAC filed an amicus curiae brief with the United States Court of Appeals in Cincinnati. The NAC-accredited Cincinnati Association for the Blind asked NAC to help in its efforts to overturn recent decisions of the National Labor Relations Board.

In an election ordered by NLRB in 1978, a majority of the participating blind production workers in CAB's sheltered workshop voted to be represented by a union affiliated with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters. NLRB has ordered CAB to bargain with the union.

CAB requested NLRB to rethink its decisions without success. Now, CAB and NAC are asking the Court to review it, contending that the best interests of blind production workers cannot be served if NLRB asserts jurisdiction - under current law, it could seriously interfere with the ability of sheltered workshops to continue to provide quality services to them.

National Industries for the Blind also is assisting CAB in the case because of the implications for workshop services nationwide. Working closely on the side of the Teamsters is the National Federation of the Blind.

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No. 37

Winter 1981

NAC MEETS IN MINNEAPOLIS

Held in Minneapolis, Minnesota on November 15-16, the NAC Annual Meetings were hosted by the NAC-accredited Minneapolis Society for the Blind and two NAC Supporters, the Gopher State Blind Associates (ACB) and the Minnesota Chapter of the American Association of Workers for the Blind.

The meeting was highlighted by a panel presentation on NAC and State agencies. Panelists were: James L. Carballo, director, Mississippi Vocational Rehabilitation for the Blind; William T. Coppage, director, Virginia Department for the Visually Handicapped; Ross Fullmer, manager, Arizona Services for the Blind Section; and C. Owen Pollard, director, Maine Bureau of Rehabilitation.

Panelists described how NAC accreditation assisted their agencies to enrich services, management practices and public accountability; to preserve and strengthen their positions within State government; to increase support from the public and from the administrative and legislative branches of their States; and to improve the voluntary agencies that are funded by them.

Mr. Carballo was presented with the NAC Service Award for his distinguished service as chairman and member of several NAC on-site review teams.

A featured speaker was William F. Gallagher, newly appointed executive director of the American Foundation for the Blind (AFB). Mr. Gallagher spoke of his personal commitment to accreditation and reaffirmed AFB's strong support for NAC. He declared his goals of bringing about an accelerated rate of applications for accreditation, of helping NAC achieve full financial independence, and of arranging for an objective study of NAC's impact on the field of work with the blind.

During its meeting, the Board of Directors approved a Long Range Plan that forecasts 100 accredited agencies by the mid-1980's, the start of the second round of revisions to NAC standards, and NAC's increasing impact on improving services to blind people.

Reporting for the Commission on Advancement of Standards, Daniel D. Robinson, chairman, pointed to the need to develop sanctions and benefits in relation to NAC accreditation to stimulate improved services on a broader scale. Mr. Robinson remarked that it will be up to NAC's Sponsors and Supporters to realize this objective.

The Board accepted the invitation of several Georgia organizations of and for the Blind to hold NAC's 1981 annual meetings in Atlanta on November 14 and 15.

NAC ACCREDITS ONE, REACCREDITS EIGHT

At its December meeting, the Commission on Accreditation awarded accreditation to one organization and reaccredited eight others.

Newly accredited is the South Dakota School for the Visually Handicapped, Aberdeen, Charles E. Boyer, superintendent.

Reaccredited are Atlanta Area Services for the Blind, Georgia; Clovernook Home and School for the Blind, Cincinnati, Ohio; Illinois Visually Handicapped Institute, Chicago; Maine Division of Eye Care, Augusta; Minneapolis Society for the Blind, Minnesota; New York Association for the Blind, New York; Northeastern Association of the Blind at Albany New York; and Tennessee School for the Blind, Donelson.

In other accreditation actions, the Commission acknowledged the withdrawal of accreditation of two special schools: the Utah School for the Blind on September 11, 1980; and the Oregon School for the Blind on December 31, 1980.

NAC WELCOMES NEW SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS

Five new Sponsors and Supporters have joined the list of organizations that publicly endorse NAC's work, bringing the number of official Sponsors and Supporters to 36 local, State, national and international organizations.

The new Sponsors are Guide Dog Users (ACB) and the United States Association for Blind Athletes (USABA). They are already working hard to promote NAC accreditation. Last summer, the Guide Dog Users passed a resolution calling on all dog guide schools to achieve accreditation by NAC. And USABA's president, Arthur Copeland, serves on NAC's technical committee to revise the standards for social work & recreation and leisure services.

Joining NAC as Supporters are Blinded Veterans Association, New York; Tennessee Council of the Blind (ACB); and the Department of Rehabilitation and Special Education, University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

In addition, the American Foundation for the Blind upgraded its status from a Supporter to a Sponsoring member.

MORTON PEPPER RECEIVES MIGEL MEDAL

On October 23, 1980 the American Foundation for the Blind presented Morton Pepper, First Vice President of NAC, with the Migel Medal. The award was made in recognition of his outstanding volunteer contributions to the field of work with the blind. Mr. Pepper first joined NAC's Board in 1970, and he is also honorary president of the NAC-accredited Jewish Guild for the Blind (New York City). He wishes to express his appreciation to his many friends who sent congratulatory messages.

NEW NAC BROCHURE AVAILABLE

Your friends can learn about NAC from our new general information brochure. It is available from the NAC office in print and flexible disc.

NAC MAKES REVISIONS TO O & M STANDARDS

The standards for qualifications of orientation and mobility specialists have been revised. The revisions were recommended by the Commission on Standards, following a national review which took into account comments from consumers and professionals, and new certification criteria approved by the Board of Directors of the American Association of Workers for the Blind. The revisions made are those proposed in the Summer 1980 issue of The Standard-Bearer.

The revisions will be included in the following self-study and evaluation guides: Section D-2a, Orientation and Mobility Services; Section D-3, Rehabilitation Centers, Section D-15, Preschool Services; and D-23, Program for Independent Living. All self-studies received after June 15, 1981, from agencies and schools applying for accreditation and reaccreditation will need to reflect these standards if they provide orientation and mobility services.

NAC BEGINS REVISION OF STANDARDS FOR SOCIAL SERVICES

Bernard M. Shiffman, executive director, Community Planning Council of Greater New York and chairman of the national technical committee to revise self-study and evaluation guide, D-5, Social Services, has announced that the national review draft of proposed changes is available for review and testing by the field. The draft, Social Work & Recreation and Leisure Services, takes into account the growth and development of these services since the standards were first formulated, including "mainstreaming" blind persons into appropriate community agencies. The draft sharpens emphasis on the specific roles of social work and recreation and leisure personnel in enhancing the potentials of blind and visually handicapped persons.

Mr. Shiffman invites you to review the draft and send NAC your comments and suggestions by July 31, 1981.

ORDER FORM FOR D-5

Yes, I want to participate in revising NAC's standards for Social Work Services & Recreation and Leisure Services.

Quantity _____ @ \$1.50 each: \$ _____ Enclosed

Send this form with your check payable to:

National Accreditation Council, 79 Madison Avenue, New York, NY, 10016

Name _____

Organization _____

Street _____

City, State & Zip _____

NEW OFFICERS, BOARD MEMBERS ELECTED

At its annual meetings, NAC's Board of Directors elected the following officers for one-year terms: Morton Pepper, first vice president; Huntington Harris, second vice president; Raymond A. Kempf, third vice president; Evelyn Ullman, secretary; and Peter W. Connelly, treasurer. Elected for one-year terms as members-at-large of the Executive Committee are: Helen G. Levine and LeRoy F. Saunders. Otis H. Stephens is serving the second year of his two-year term as president.

The corporate membership elected six new Board members, returned two after periods of absence, and reelected three others. All terms extend for three years. New Board members elected are: Delbert K. Aman, first vice president, American Council of the Blind, Aberdeen, South Dakota; Adrian J. DeBlaey, president, Badger Association of the Blind (ACB), Milwaukee, Wisconsin; James J. Jeffers, director, Illinois Department of Rehabilitation Services, Chicago, Illinois; Jerry R. Monroe, past president, Blinded Veterans Association, Bricktown, New Jersey; Gerald M. Mundy, executive director, Clovernook Home and School for the Blind, Cincinnati, Ohio; and Ann Therese Snyder, president, American Council of the Blind of New Jersey, Old Bridge, New Jersey. Returning to the Board are: Jack W. Birch and McAllister C. Upshaw.

Reelected are: Joseph E. Champagne, Armand P. Leco and Morton Pepper.

The Board of Directors elected Ellsworth L. Sharpe, president elect, Blinded Veterans Association, Newport News, Virginia, to fill an unexpired term that extends through 1982.

NAC CO-SPONSORS CONFERENCE ON VISION AND AGING

The mini-White House Conference on Vision and Aging on January 11-14, 1980 in Bethesda, Maryland, was co-sponsored by NAC. Its purpose was to develop agenda topics for the 1981 White House Conference on Aging in such areas as employment, education, independent living, eye care, transportation and quality services for this special population.

SELF-STUDY GUIDE FOR DAY SCHOOL PROGRAMS NOW AVAILABLE

A Self-Study and Evaluation Guide for Day School Programs for Visually Handicapped Pupils: A Guide for Program Improvement is now available. The guide, authored by Dr. Geraldine T. Scholl, will be a useful tool in stimulating improvements in day school programs which include blind and visually handicapped students. The work was coordinated with NAC's 1977-78 Education Standards Project, which also was chaired by Dr. Scholl. The guide can be purchased from the Council on Exceptional Children, 1920 Association Drive, Reston, Virginia, 22091.

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No. 38

Spring 1981

LEADERS CALL FOR MORE INCENTIVES FOR ACCREDITATION

Outstanding national leaders in work with the blind are beginning to urge enactment of measures to encourage specialized agencies and schools for the blind and visually handicapped to seek and retain NAC accreditation.

Foremost among these leaders is William F. Gallagher, executive director of the American Foundation for the Blind. According to Gallagher, "AFB believes the time has come for funding bodies to rely upon accreditation as a determinant of eligibility for receipt of public funds." Recently, Gallagher brought together other key leaders from national consumer, worker and provider organizations to "develop a national consensus position on accreditation and public funding, and specific strategies for securing this objective for three core services - education, rehabilitation, and sheltered employment."

The acceptance and use of accreditation in most fields depends on sanctions or benefits related to attainment of accreditation. When NAC was established, it was anticipated that one day public funds would be earmarked for specialized agencies for the blind which had received NAC accreditation. Several State rehabilitation agencies have adopted such policies.

In a related development, the Affiliated Leadership League of and for the Blind of America also will develop strategies to bring about "the recognition and protection of non-governmental accreditation in the field" through legislation or regulations.

REORGANIZATION ANNOUNCED

Richard W. Bleecker, NAC's executive director, has announced a reorganization of the NAC office to keep pace with increasing workload demands. The reorganization includes the promotions of three members of the professional staff.

Carl R. Augusto, as associate director, will assume overall responsibility for the three program functions - accreditation, development of standards, and advancement of standards. Ann F. Barber, as assistant director, will direct and coordinate all aspects of the accreditation program. Cheryl D. Sandler, as assistant director, retains her responsibilities in public relations and fund raising, and she also will analyze and sharpen selected office procedures.

Also included in the reorganization is the reclassification of several secretarial positions.

NAC GEARS UP FOR 1982

A program plan and budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1981 were adopted recently by the Executive Committee.

The program plan targets 18 specific objectives for accomplishment. Several may have a far-reaching impact on the field of services to blind and visually handicapped people, including the following which call upon NAC to:

1. Advocate specialized and identifiable accredited agencies and schools for the blind as an essential vehicle for the provision of quality services;
2. Make a final decision on whether or not to revise the accreditation standards for dog guide schools;
3. Decide whether to extend NAC's services to include agencies and schools for the blind in Canada;
4. Initiate a series of workshops to train on-site review team chairmen and prospective chairmen.

To carry out the objectives in the program plan, the Executive Committee adopted a budget goal of \$470,000 for fiscal year 1982.

In other actions, the Committee approved 14 changes in the personnel policies that affect the NAC office. This concludes a process of self-evaluation that began last year when the accreditation standards for personnel administration were revised.

NAC TO MEET IN ATLANTA

The 1981 Annual Board and Membership meetings will be held at the Atlanta American Motor Hotel, Atlanta, Georgia on November 14 and 15. Co-hosting the meetings are three NAC-accredited agencies (Atlanta Area Services for the Blind, Georgia Academy for the Blind, Georgia Factory for the Blind) and NAC Supporter Georgia Federation of the Blind (ACB).

The Membership meeting is scheduled for 1:30 - 4:30 p.m. on November 14, to be followed by a reception and banquet beginning at 5:30 p.m. George J. Mertz, executive vice president, National Industries for the Blind, will be a featured speaker at the banquet. The following day, the Board of Directors will meet from 9:00 a.m. to noon. The meetings are open to all.

On November 12, National Industries for the Blind and the General Council of Workshops for the Blind are co-hosting with NAC a training seminar for chairmen and prospective chairmen of NAC on-site review teams. The seminar will assist selected workshop leaders to sharpen their skills as chairmen of NAC on-site teams that visit organizations applying for accreditation or reaccreditation.

Morton Pepper, chairman of the Nominations Committee, invites readers of The Standard-Bearer to submit names of qualified persons for consideration as candidates for election to the Board. The Committee will consider all names received by August 15.

Peter J. Salmon, a founder and former president of the National Accreditation Council, died peacefully in his sleep on January 23. Blind himself since childhood, Peter dedicated his life to helping blind and deaf-blind persons world-wide achieve dignity, self-reliance and vocational opportunity.

Dr. Salmon is best known for his service with the NAC-accredited Industrial Home for the Blind (Brooklyn, NY), where he served from 1917 until his death. He was also founder and administrative vice president of the Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youths and Adults.

Peter's belief in standards and accreditation was an inspiration to others. His legacy is certain to endure into the twenty-first century. Because of him, the lives of countless blind, deaf-blind and sighted persons have been enriched beyond measure. We are committed to continuing the work he helped bring about and cared about so deeply.

UPDATE ON INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF DISABLED PERSONS

The United Nations General Assembly has proclaimed 1981 as the International Year of Disabled Persons. IYDP is now in full swing. Its theme is "the full participation of disabled persons in the life of their society." In a recent proclamation, President Reagan pledged the cooperation of his administration in expanding "the opportunities for disabled Americans to make a fuller contribution to our national life."

NAC supports these aims, and is active in IYDP. As reported in the Spring 1980 issue of The Standard-Bearer, NAC has joined the U. S. Council for the International Year of Disabled Persons as a national partner. This makes us part of a broadly coordinated effort to stimulate greater public recognition of the capabilities of the 35 million Americans with physical or mental disabilities.

Working with the national partners are state and local partners who conduct workshops, conferences, festivals and seminars in observance of IYDP. NAC can put you in touch with your state partner liaison who can give you more information.

NAC encourages you to support this year-long international effort. Creating an environment in which blind and other disabled persons are better able to help themselves is in NAC's interest.

NAC BROCHURE NOW IN BRAILLE

Blind and visually handicapped persons can get Braille copies of NAC's general information brochure from the NAC office. The Braille copies were provided courtesy of the Greater New Orleans Council of the Blind, a chapter of NAC Supporter Louisiana Council of the Blind. The general information brochure also is available on flexible disc and in inkprint.

STANDARDS FOR PRODUCTION OF READING MATERIALS BEING REVISED

Oral O. Miller, president, American Council of the Blind and chairman of the national technical committee to revise self-study and evaluation guide D-7, Production of Reading Materials, has announced that the national review draft of proposed changes is available for study and comment from the field. Mr. Miller points out that the draft includes suggested standards for producing materials in Braille, large print, and recorded forms.

Other committee members are: Floyd Cargill, chairman, Braille Authority of North America; Stuart Carothers, executive director, Recording for the Blind; Frank Kells, assistant manager, Arizona State Services for the Blind; Helen Levine, NAC board member and former National Braille Association (NBA) president; Carson Nolan, vice president and general manager, American Printing House for the Blind; Grace Rice, treasurer, NBA; Robert Rosenberg, State University of New York, College of Optometry; Virginia Scharoff, consultant, Industrial Home for the Blind, Braille Library and Transcribing Services; Michael Sears, director of workshop and maintenance, Clovernook Home and School for the Blind; and Barbara Tate, member, NAC Commission on Standards and secretary, NBA.

The proposed revisions take into account today's conditions and needs including: increasing the voice of the consumer in production programs and assuring that services are responsive to consumer interests; increasing outreach to serve aged, multi-handicapped, and others in special circumstances; and encouraging producers of materials to exchange and share information more readily.

The technical committee will consider all suggestions for improving the draft received by July 31. The standards will be put to use in NAC's accreditation program when the revision process is complete.

----- ORDER FORM

Yes, I want to review and comment on the draft standards, D-7, Production of Reading Materials. Please send me copies in the quantity designated below for each medium @ \$1.50 each.

No. Copies: Inkprint _____; Braille _____; Cassette _____; Total _____

Enclosed is check payable to the National Accreditation Council for \$ _____.

Name _____

Organization _____

Street _____

City, State & ZIP _____

Send, with check, to: National Accreditation Council
79 Madison Avenue - Suite 1406
New York, New York 10016

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NEW LOW VISION SERVICE STANDARDS COMPLETED

After two years of work, NAC's new accreditation standards for a low vision service were approved by the Board of Directors in June, and are now available for use by organizations providing low vision services. The new standards offer, for the first time, opportunities for low vision services to evaluate and plan their clinical programs in keeping with nationally recognized standards and to apply for accreditation.

The standards will be available in two formats. The self-study and evaluation guide, Section D-9, Low Vision Service, is now available in print from NAC at \$2.00 per copy. It will be used in NAC's accreditation program as part of the self-study and on-site review processes.

Another edition will be published in the fall. It will include the standards, but omit the details needed for a self-study for NAC accreditation. The second edition is designed to expand knowledge about sound practices for a low vision service among a wider audience of professionals and other interested persons.

NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS URGE GREATER USE OF NAC ACCREDITATION

Delegates attending the American Council of the Blind and the Affiliated Leadership League of and for the Blind of America conventions in July unanimously adopted resolutions which would make greater use of NAC accreditation. Both resolutions urge that the allocation of public and private funds to agencies and schools for the blind be conditioned upon the attainment of accreditation. ACB and ALL, both of which are NAC Sponsors, plan to share their resolutions with governmental and other funding sources that support services to blind and visually handicapped people.

In a related development, NAC Sponsor National Industries for the Blind recently advocated greater use of accreditation by its affiliated workshops. In the July-August 1981 issue of its newsletter, Opportunity, NIB executive vice president George J. Mertz said "In this increasing aura of public accountability, agencies for the blind must prove the value of their programs in order to secure those necessary Federal and State dollars. Fortunately for us, agencies serving the blind have a very effective tool to prove their worth; namely, the National Accreditation Council ... NIB wholeheartedly supports the NAC accreditation process and encourages all of its affiliated agencies to consider NAC accreditation."

NAC WELCOMES SIX NEW SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS

Recently seven organizations, including four affiliates of the American Council of the Blind, joined NAC as Sponsors and Supporters. This brings the total of Sponsors to 13 and Supporters to 27.

The new national organizations joining NAC as Sponsors are Council of Rehabilitation Specialists (ACB) and Visually Impaired Secretarial Transcribers Association (ACB). New State organizations joining as Supporters are Georgia Association of Rehabilitation Facilities; Georgia Chapter, AAWB; Georgia Federation of the Blind (ACB); and Mississippi Council of the Blind (ACB).

The three Georgia Supporters will co-host NAC's Annual Meetings this fall, along with the three accredited agencies in Georgia.

JOIN US IN ATLANTA

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the standard-bearer

NATIONAL ACCREDITATION COUNCIL

*For Agencies Serving the Blind
and Visually Handicapped*

79 Madison Avenue • New York, N. Y. 10016 • (212) 683-8581

No. 39

Fall 1981

NEW LOW VISION SERVICE STANDARDS COMPLETED

After two years of work, NAC's new accreditation standards for a low vision service were approved by the Board of Directors in June, and are now available for use by organizations providing low vision services. The new standards offer, for the first time, opportunities for low vision services to evaluate and plan their clinical programs in keeping with nationally recognized standards and to apply for accreditation.

The standards will be available in two formats. The self-study and evaluation guide, Section D-9, Low Vision Service, is now available in print from NAC at \$2.00 per copy. It will be used in NAC's accreditation program as part of the self-study and on-site review processes.

Another edition will be published in the fall. It will include the standards, but omit the details needed for a self-study for NAC accreditation. The second edition is designed to expand knowledge about sound practices for a low vision service among a wider audience of professionals and other interested persons.

NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS URGE GREATER USE OF NAC ACCREDITATION

Delegates attending the American Council of the Blind and the Affiliated Leadership League of and for the Blind of America conventions in July unanimously adopted resolutions which would make greater use of NAC accreditation. Both resolutions urge that the allocation of public and private funds to agencies and schools for the blind be conditioned upon the attainment of accreditation. ACB and ALL, both of which are NAC Sponsors, plan to share their resolutions with governmental and other funding sources that support services to blind and visually handicapped people.

In a related development, NAC Sponsor National Industries for the Blind recently advocated greater use of accreditation by its affiliated workshops. In the July-August 1981 issue of its newsletter, Opportunity, NIB executive vice president George J. Mertz said "In this increasing aura of public accountability, agencies for the blind must prove the value of their programs in order to secure those necessary Federal and State dollars. Fortunately for us, agencies serving the blind have a very effective tool to prove their worth; namely, the National Accreditation Council ... NIB wholeheartedly supports the NAC accreditation process and encourages all of its affiliated agencies to consider NAC accreditation."

NAC WELCOMES SIX NEW SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS

Recently seven organizations, including four affiliates of the American Council of the Blind, joined NAC as Sponsors and Supporters. This brings the total of Sponsors to 13 and Supporters to 27.

The new national organizations joining NAC as Sponsors are Council of Rehabilitation Specialists (ACB) and Visually Impaired Secretarial Transcribers Association (ACB). New State organizations joining as Supporters are Georgia Association of Rehabilitation Facilities; Georgia Chapter, AAWB; Georgia Federation of the Blind (ACB); and Mississippi Council of the Blind (ACB).

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NATIONAL ACCREDITATION COUNCIL
FOR AGENCIES SERVING THE BLIND & VISUALLY HANDICAPPED

No. 40 February 1982

NAC Week in Georgia

Honoring NAC's 1981 annual membership meetings in Atlanta, Georgia Governor George Busbee proclaimed November 9-15 "NAC WEEK IN GEORGIA." Among the dignitaries welcoming NAC were Mayor Maynard Jackson and Jack Watson, former chief of staff to President Jimmy Carter.

Major activities included the annual meeting of the corporate membership, a reception and banquet, a Board of Directors meeting, and meetings of various Commissions and committees. Many of these events are described in this issue of *The Standard-Bearer*. Another highlight was the presentation to NAC of a wall-hanging woven by deaf-blind students who attend the Illinois School for the Visually Impaired.

NAC's Board took a number of important actions. Among them, it endorsed the work of the National Steering Committee on Standards

Continued on page 5

Four Agencies Accredited; Seven Reaccredited

At its December 14-15 meeting, NAC's Commission on Accreditation accredited four agencies and schools for the first time—Yuma Center for the Visually Impaired, Yuma, Arizona; Maine Center for the Blind, Portland, Maine; Center for the Visually Impaired, Elyria, Ohio; and Loaiza Cordero Institute for Blind Children, Santurce, Puerto Rico.

Six organizations were approved for reaccreditation—Arkansas School for the Blind, Little Rock, Arkansas; Central Association for the Blind, Utica, New York; Lighthouse for the Blind of Houston, Texas; Louisiana Association for the Blind, Shreveport, Louisiana; Syracuse Association of Workers for the Blind, New York; and Tampa Lighthouse for the Blind, Florida.

Continued on page 8

Note to Our Readers

A new year. A young decade. And as NAC completes its fifteenth year, we celebrate both change and continuity with this issue of *The Standard-Bearer*.

Our style is new—reflecting our awareness that we must remain flexible if we are to be responsive to the needs of the blindness system in this rapidly changing society. Three times a year, *The Standard-Bearer* will continue to provide you with news about NAC. We've added columns and pictures. Additionally, we've incorporated our list of accredited members, which will be included twice a year. The list of Sponsors and Supporters will appear in the Spring issue.

We invite your comments and ideas for stories about accreditation. *The Standard-Bearer* should reflect your

interests since you are the ones who give NAC its reason for being.

Our logo and title remain the same, signifying our commitment to the purpose we have held since 1966—to stimulate the improvement of services to blind and visually handicapped persons by developing standards for agencies and schools, by promoting effective use of the standards, and by helping agencies and schools implement the standards through accreditation.

We hope that in strengthening our reporting to you of the activities of NAC throughout the country you will become more familiar with our process as well as our results. And by reporting on activities of NAC accredited members and volunteers, we hope to provide you with further indications of the vitality of the work we are all engaged in.



Mertz Urges Workshops to Seek Accreditation

George J. Mertz, executive vice president, National Industries for the Blind, recently announced that the NIB Board of Directors has approved a new policy to encourage greater use of NAC accreditation by NIB affiliated organizations. According to Mertz, for the next two-year period, NIB will pay the on-site review team expenses of NIB affiliates seeking accreditation for the first time. "Some of our workshops have been reluctant to apply for accreditation because of the expenses involved," Mertz explained. "We believe this new policy will stimulate about a dozen workshops to apply in the next two years."

Previously NIB, a NAC Sponsor, had paid the expenses of one team member, and NIB will continue this practice when its affiliated organizations apply for reaccreditation.

Comments from the Executive Director

Beginning with this edition of *The Standard-Bearer*, I will be sharing my views with you on issues that I feel are important to the blindness field. In this, my initial message, I'd like to tell you why I believe in NAC, and how accreditation can best help blind people to receive quality services from specialized agencies and schools.

Otis H. Stephens very effectively summed up the meaning NAC has for me in his latest President's Message: "The accreditation process, as practiced by NAC, affords the best opportunity yet developed for assuring the right of every blind person in our society to share fully in the privileges and responsibilities of equal citizenship."

However, there are problems. The years ahead will be challenging. The political climate makes it increasingly important that services to blind and visually handicapped people be as excellent and accountable as they can be—or the agencies and schools that specialize in serving them may lose their identities or perish altogether.

NAC is doing what it can to help the specialized organizations remain viable. But more needs to be done. Recently NAC's Board of Directors noted that while one of every four organizations eligible to seek accreditation has already done so, it doubts that there will be further significant movement until more sanctions and benefits are provided.

If specialized agencies and schools are to survive in the coming years, they must be able to demonstrate that they are providing quality services, sound management, and public accountability. The recognition of NAC accreditation is the accepted method of assuring those qualities—to blind people, to the communities in which they are located, and to the individuals and organizations that fund them.

It's not NAC's job to get each and every agency in the country to apply for accreditation. This is where you come in. Concerned Americans can assure that NAC's purpose is fully realized by providing benefits to agencies that have demonstrated that they deserve them—and sanctions to those that have not.

The survival of specialized agencies and schools may hang in the balance.

Richard W. Bleecker

On-Site Review Training

Leaders in the field of workshop services for the blind recently attended a seminar designed to increase their effectiveness in chairing on-site review teams. The seminar, the first of its kind since the late 1960's, was co-hosted by National Industries for the Blind, General Council of Workshops for the Blind, and NAC.

Although volunteers who serve on NAC on-site review teams are highly qualified in their professional specialties, they need training in order to effectively evaluate the management and services of organizations applying for accreditation.

The seminar consisted of a full day of instruction and small group exercises which simulated conditions encountered during actual on-site reviews. Participants got a taste of what to expect while chairing on-site review teams—procedures, scheduling, applying NAC's standards, report writing, interviewing consumers, etc. NAC's new *On-Site Review Guidelines* and a specially-designed Model On-Site Review Report were used as training materials.

The 22 seminar participants expect to put their training to good use as workshops take advantage of NIB's new policy of paying the on-site review team expenses of affiliates seeking initial accreditation (see "Mertz" story on this page).

NAC thanks NIB and the General Council of Workshops for the Blind for their help in planning and conducting the seminar.

A seminar will be held later this year for chairmen and prospective chairmen of teams that visit special schools for the blind.

Election of Officers and Board Members

In a unanimous decision, NAC's Board of Directors, on November 15, re-elected Otis H. Stephens to a second two-year term as president. Elected to one-year terms as officers are Morton Pepper, first vice-president, Huntington Harris, second vice-president, Raymond A. Kempf, third vice-president, Evelyn G. Ullman, secretary, and Peter W. Connelly, treasurer. Joseph E. Champagne and LeRoy F. Saunders will serve as members-at-large of the Executive Committee.

On November 14, NAC's corporate membership re-elected Owen R. Davison and Huntington Harris to the Board of Directors. Eight new directors were elected to three-year terms: Nancy W. Bryant, New York Institute for the Education of the Blind; Arthur E. Copeland, United States Association for Blind Athletes; Charles T. Cozier, Michigan Wisconsin Pipe Line Co.; Jephtha V. Greer, Council for Exceptional Children; Ruth Kaarlela, Department of Blind Rehabilitation, Western Michigan University; Thomas G. Kahn, Kahn Brothers; Grant Mack, American Council of the Blind; James D. McComas, Mississippi State University; James Olsen, American Council of the Blind; and George Stocking, Blinded Veterans Association.

After six years of service, these directors left the Board in accordance with NAC's policy of rotation: Samuel J. Cole, Roy Kumpe, Elizabeth M. Lennon, Helen G. Levine, David L. Schnair, Wesley D. Sprague, and Helen W. Worden. Claire W. Carlson and Thomas H. Carruthers left the Board after completing three-year terms.

NAC Welcomes Five Sponsors and Supporters

NAC is pleased to welcome five organizations which recently became Sponsoring and Supporting members.

The newest Sponsor is the Association of Rehabilitation Teachers, a professional organization concerned with rehabilitation teaching. New Supporters are Illinois Chapter, Association for Education of the Visually Handicapped; Pennsylvania Council of the Blind; and the South Dakota Association for the Blind, both affiliates of the American Council of the Blind. The Arizona Association of Workers With the Blind renews its membership as a Supporter. This brings the total of Sponsors and Supporters to 45.

Sponsors and Supporters are national, state and local organizations which help NAC improve services to blind and visually handicapped Americans by promoting and supporting NAC's accreditation program. These organizations, because their activities are not encompassed by the NAC standards, are not eligible to seek accreditation and are not evaluated by NAC.

Panelists Enthused

"Our agency has made solid strides because of the guidelines, the road map, that NAC has set down for us," stated William J. Leeder of the Association for the Blind and for Sight Conservation of Grand Rapids, Michigan. Speaking before NAC's corporate members on November 14 in Atlanta, Mr. Leeder illustrated how the Association uses NAC accreditation to attain greater use of its facilities by blind people, increased funding from many sources and increased visibility and credibility in the community. Mr. Leeder stated that with cuts in federal and State spending, "each State is going to support only the services it feels are most important . . . at the top of the list will be the agencies that have met national accreditation standards."

Mr. Leeder was one of three executive directors of accredited agencies who participated in the panel discussion on the impact of NAC accreditation. Other panelists were Donald Z. Kauth of Guiding Eyes for the Blind and Carolyn Kokenge of Atlanta Area Services for the Blind. The moderator was Roy Kumpe of International Services for the Blind.

Mr. Kauth, head of the only accredited dog guide school, discussed how Guiding Eyes had improved due to the advice, assistance and guidance obtained through the self-study and on-site review processes. He described how NAC's recommendations provided direction for the agency's future, and assisted with approaches towards training of staff members, and public and private funding. He urged NAC to continue serving the dog guide school community.

Ms. Kokenge, an authority in rehabilitation administration, stressed that NAC's "independent and objective evaluation" was valuable to her agency's programs and management. She pointed out that NAC had stimulated AASB to strengthen and expand its programs, develop systems for long-range planning, and enhance its image in the eyes of the community. She predicted that "the time is not far off when federal and State dollars, as they become tighter, will be awarded only when accreditation is present, and probably foundations will take the same approach."



Owen R. Davison

Davison Appointed Chairman, Commission on Standards

Owen R. Davison has been appointed to a three-year term as Chairman of NAC's Commission on Standards. He succeeds Wesley D. Sprague, who served for five years. In making the appointment, Dr. Otis H. Stephens, NAC's President, stated, "Owen brings to the position a unique blend of talent, dedication, and real-life experience in the application and development of standards."

Mr. Davison's association with NAC dates to its inception. He was a participant in COMSTAC, which in the mid-1960's created the framework and standards which made NAC possible. He has been a member of the Board of Directors and the Commission on Standards since 1978. In accepting the appointment, Mr. Davison said "NAC is one of my favorite volunteer interests. The growth and quality of the NAC effort since 1966 has been a source of great satisfaction to me. I'm pleased to be part of a team dedicated to the provision of effective, efficient services to blind people, and to full public accountability."

With 43 years of professional practice behind him, Mr. Davison currently is a private consultant on management services for non-profit organizations. Previously, he was director of the Health and Welfare Council of Greater Philadelphia, and Associate Executive Director of the United Way of Pennsylvania. He resides with his wife in Hershey, Pennsylvania.

Suggestions, Please

Would you like to put your mark on NAC's standards for rehabilitation centers? After 13 useful years, NAC is retiring this set of standards. A draft of proposed revisions to the standards is now being circulated in a national review, designed to elicit the "best practice" in the field of work with the blind.

The draft was prepared by a technical committee chaired by William F. Gallagher, executive director of the American Foundation for the Blind, who stated, "Many severely multihandicapped persons are being served now by rehabilitation centers that were designed to serve persons with just the single disability of blindness—NAC's standards must reflect this population shift."

Order your copy of the national review draft now and send us your suggestions by March 15. Copies are available for \$1.50 each—please specify whether you'd like the print, braille, or recorded edition. Print copies of the 1968 edition are available for \$2.50.

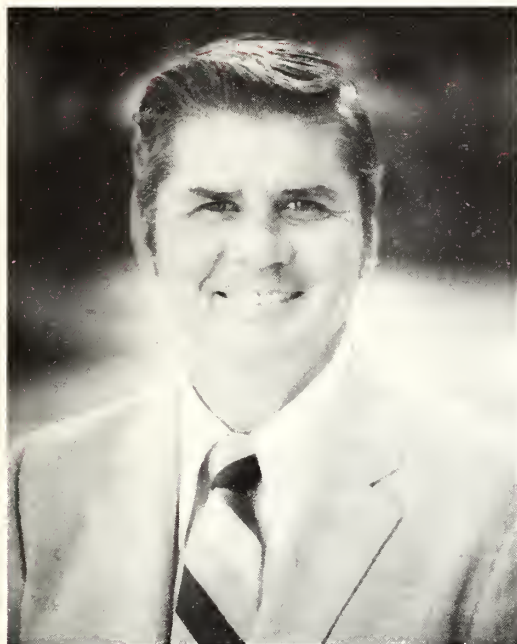
Now Available — Updated Standards for Production of Reading Materials

A one-year project to update NAC's standards for production of reading materials has concluded with the publication of a new self-study and evaluation guide. The updated standards reflect changes in philosophy and technology related to producing materials in braille, large print and on tape.

"The new standards exemplify NAC's commitment to monitoring the pulse of the field in all its revisions," noted Owen R. Davison, Chairman of the Commission on Standards. "Some 300 organizations and individuals reviewed the proposed standards and we received many valuable suggestions." The technical committee developed the draft standards and synthesized the suggestions into final form. Oral O. Miller chaired the committee, which consisted of users and preparers of reading materials. Members of the National Braille Association also gave generously of their time and expertise.

You can purchase a print copy of the standards by sending a request to NAC with a check for \$2.

McComas Accepts Appointment to Chair Commission on Accreditation



James D. McComas

It seems that no sacrifice is too great to be made for the National Accreditation Council by new Board member James D. McComas. In attending NAC's annual meetings in Atlanta, Dr. McComas, who is President of Mississippi State

University, missed the football game in Baton Rouge between his University and Louisiana State University (despite this, Mississippi State won, 17 to 9).

Dr. McComas has been a member of NAC's Commission on Accreditation since 1978. Recently, he was appointed by President Stephens to serve a three-year appointment as Chairman of the Commission, succeeding Dean W. Tuttle. Dr. Stephens stated, "I've known Jim since we worked together at the University of Tennessee. He is genuinely dedicated to the enhancement of opportunities for those of us who are blind or visually impaired."

Dr. McComas, in accepting the appointment, said "It is a privilege to be associated with NAC and the agencies recognized for quality programs under its process of accreditation. I look forward to working with the Council."

Before becoming Mississippi State University's President in 1976, Dr. McComas served as Dean of the College of Education of the University of Tennessee. He has served on a number of national accrediting boards and committees. Dr. McComas lives with his wife and two children in Mississippi State, Mississippi.

NAC Week in Georgia from page 1

and Accreditation, which is calling on public and private funding bodies to link NAC accreditation with eligibility for receipt of funds.

In other actions, the Board tabled for one year a decision about whether to update the dog guide school standards with the understanding that movement by dog guide schools to quality for accreditation will influence the Board's final decision. It decided not to extend NAC's accreditation program into Canada at this time, but to continue to welcome Canadian participation in NAC activities.

The Board expressed its confidence and trust in Otis H. Stephens and his efforts to elicit constructive participation in NAC from the National Federation of the Blind. The Board recognized that NFB's opposition to NAC has not dimin-

ished, and in accordance with established policy, NAC would continue to protect itself and explain why it believes that this opposition to standards and accreditation is harmful to blind and visually handicapped persons.

Atlanta was not just business. Southern graciousness was evident everywhere. The Georgia Chapter of the Randolph-Sheppard Vendors of America provided enjoyable hospitality. The host committee, led by Evelyn G. Ullman, and the co-hosts—Atlanta Area Services for the Blind, Georgia Academy for the Blind, Georgia Factory for the Blind, Georgia Chapter of AAWB, Georgia Association of Rehabilitation Facilities, and Georgia Federation of the Blind (ACB) did an outstanding job of providing planning, coordination, and support. Next year's meetings will be held in Jackson, Mississippi.



Look For This Symbol
of Quality

List of Accredited Members

as of December 31, 1981

Accreditation by NAC signifies that an agency or school for the blind meets nationally accepted standards for quality services, responsible management, and public accountability.

Two dates appear for each agency or school: the year when accreditation was first achieved, and the year through which accreditation is awarded.

This list of accredited members assists blind and visually handicapped people to select quality services. And it assists the public—which supports these services through contributions and taxes—to identify agencies and schools that are demonstrating their effectiveness and accountability.

ALABAMA

Alabama School for the Blind; Talladega
Ronald L. Garrett, Principal (78-82)

Department of Adult Blind and Deaf of the Alabama
Institute for Deaf and Blind; Talladega
Hank Baud, Director (77-83)

ARIZONA

Services for the Blind Section; Phoenix
K. Edward House, Manager (71-86)

Foundation for Blind Children; Scottsdale
John H. Maxson, Executive Director (78-83)

Department for the Visually Handicapped, Arizona State
School for the Deaf and the Blind; Tucson
Ralph L. Hoag, Superintendent (72-82)

Tucson Association for the Blind; Tucson
Kenneth W. Gavitt, Executive Director (80-82)

Yuma Center for the Visually Impaired; Yuma
Margarite Turk, Director (81-84)

ARKANSAS

Arkansas Enterprises for the Blind; Little Rock
James Cordell, Executive Director (69-84)

Arkansas School for the Blind; Little Rock
J. M. Woolly, Superintendent (69-84)

Arkansas State Office for the Blind and Visually
Impaired; Little Rock
Richard Seifert, Administrator (76-86)

CALIFORNIA

Sacramento Society for the Blind; Sacramento
Thomas C. Ryan, Executive Director (73-83)

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind
Charles A. Fegan, Executive Director (70-83)

FLORIDA

Conklin Center for Multihandicapped Blind;
Daytona Beach
Edward F. McCoy, Executive Director (81-83)

Florida Association of Workers for the Blind; Miami
Vernon Metcalf, Executive Director (78-83)

Department for the Blind, Florida School for the Deaf
and the Blind; St. Augustine
William J. McClure, President (78-83)

Florida Division of Blind Services; Tallahassee
Donald H. Wedewer, Director (74-84)

Tampa Lighthouse for the Blind; Tampa
C. E. Olstrom, Executive Director (76-87)

Lighthouse for the Blind of the Palm Beaches; West Palm
Beach
William S. Thompson, Executive Director (80-82)

GEORGIA

Atlanta Area Services for the Blind; Atlanta
Carolyn Kokenge, Executive Director (72-83)

Georgia Factory for the Blind; Bainbridge
Clayton Penhallegon, Executive Director (78-83)

Georgia Academy for the Blind; Macon
Richard E. Hyer, Jr., Superintendent (78-83)

HAWAII

Services for the Blind Branch; Honolulu
Beatrice Higuchi, Administrator (72-82)

ILLINOIS

Chicago Lighthouse for the Blind; Chicago
Milton Samuelson, Executive Director (71-86)

Community Services for the Visually Handicapped;
Chicago
Peter R. Paul, Superintendent (77-82)

Illinois Visually Handicapped Institute; Chicago
Thomas J. Murphy, Superintendent (75-82)

Illinois School for the Visually Impaired; Jacksonville
Richard G. Umsted, Superintendent (75-85)

Hadley School for the Blind; Winnetka
Roger Rouse, Vice President (70-85)

INDIANA

Evansville Association for the Blind; Evansville
Frank E. Kern, Executive Director (71-81)

IOWA

Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School; Vinton
Richard M. DeMott, Superintendent (71-86)

KANSAS

Kansas Division of Services for the Blind; Topeka
Richard A. Schutz, Director (71-83)

LOUISIANA

Louisiana Association for the Blind; Shreveport
DeWayne Robertson, Executive Director (70-83)

MAINE

Division of Eye Care; Augusta
Paul E. Rourke, Director (70-85)

Maine Center for the Blind; Portland
Robert J. Crouse, Executive Director (81-84)

MARYLAND

Maryland School for the Blind; Baltimore
Richard L. Welsh, Superintendent (69-85)

MASSACHUSETTS

Perkins School for the Blind; Watertown
Charles C. Woodcock, Director (70-86)

MICHIGAN

Greater Detroit Society for the Blind; Detroit
McAllister Upshaw, Executive Director (70-86)

Association for the Blind and for Sight Conservation;
Grand Rapids
William J. Leeder, Executive Vice President (79-82)

Michigan School for the Blind; Lansing
Murray Batten, Acting Superintendent (70-86)

MINNESOTA

Minneapolis Society for the Blind; Minneapolis
Melvin E. Saterbak, Executive Director (70-86)

MISSISSIPPI

Royal Maid Association for the Blind; Hazlehurst
John L. Granger, Vice President (71-83)

Mississippi School for the Blind; Jackson
R. C. Benton, Superintendent (80-83)

Vocational Rehabilitation for the Blind; Jackson
James L. Carballo, Director (73-83)

MISSOURI

Kansas City Association for the Blind; Kansas City
Thomas Healy, Executive Director (71-82)

NEW HAMPSHIRE

New Hampshire Association for the Blind; Concord
Gale N. Stickler, Executive Director (73-84)

NEW JERSEY

St. Joseph's School for the Blind; Jersey City
Sr. Mary Kuiken, CSJ, Administrator (72-83)

NEW MEXICO

New Mexico School for the Visually Handicapped;
Alamogordo
Jerry Watkins, Superintendent (79-84)

NEW YORK

Northeastern Association of the Blind at Albany
Joseph F. Kirstein, Executive Director (75-82)

Blind Work Association; Binghamton
Conrad Range, Managing Director (71-83)

Industrial Home for the Blind; Brooklyn
Joseph J. Larkin, Executive Director (71-82)

New York Institute for the Education of the Blind;
Bronx
Nancy W. Bryant, Director (78-83)

Blind Association of Western New York; Buffalo
Michael L. Comini, Executive Director (73-82)

Center for Independent Living; New York
Douglas E. Inkster, Executive Director (80-85)

Jewish Guild for the Blind; New York
John F. Heimerdinger, Executive Director (72-82)

New York Association for the Blind; New York
Wesley D. Sprague, Executive Director (70-85)

Recording for the Blind; New York
Stuart Carothers, Executive Director (72-82)

Association for the Blind of Rochester and
Monroe County; Rochester
Stanley J. Grenn, Executive Director (76-82)

Syracuse Association of Workers for the Blind;
Syracuse
Milton Rosenblum, Executive Director (71-84)

Central Association for the Blind; Utica
Donald D. LoGuidice, Executive Director (77-84)

Guiding Eyes for the Blind; Yorktown Heights
Donald Z. Kauth, Executive Director (74-83)

NORTH CAROLINA

Governor Morehead School; Raleigh
Samuel J. Cole, Superintendent (72-82)

NORTH DAKOTA

North Dakota School for the Blind; Grand Forks
Charles R. Borchert, Superintendent (80-82)

OHIO

Cincinnati Association for the Blind; Cincinnati
Milton A. Jahoda, Executive Director (69-85)

Clovernook Home and School for the Blind;
Cincinnati
Gerald W. Mundy, Executive Director (76-85)

Cleveland Society for the Blind; Cleveland
Cleo B. Dolan, Executive Director (68-82)

Ohio State School for the Blind; Columbus
Dennis L. Holmes, Superintendent (69-85)

Center for the Visually Impaired; Elyria
Terry R. Lugenbeal, Executive Director (81-84)

Vision Center of Central Ohio; Columbus
Robert E. Mathews, Executive Director (75-84)

Toledo Society for the Blind; Toledo
Barry A. McEwen, Executive Director (78-83)

OKLAHOMA

Parkview School; Muskogee
Ronald M. Casey, Superintendent (70-85)

Division of Visual Services; Oklahoma City
Travis Harris, Administrative Assistant (78-83)

Oklahoma League for the Blind; Oklahoma City
LeRoy F. Saunders, Executive Director (78-83)

PENNSYLVANIA

Lancaster County Branch, Pennsylvania
Association for the Blind; Lancaster
Marion R. Campbell, Executive Director (73-82)

Pittsburgh Branch, Pennsylvania Association for the
Blind; Pittsburgh
Dennis J. Huber, Executive Director (70-85)

PUERTO RICO

Loaiza Cordero Institute for Blind Children; Santurce
Celsa C. Alonso, Director (81-83)

RHODE ISLAND

Rhode Island Association for the Blind; Providence
Robert H. Carolan, Executive Director (68-82)

Continued ➔



List of Accredited Members, *continued*

Rhode Island State Services for the Blind and
Visually Impaired; Providence
E. Lyman D'Andrea, Administrator (70-82)

SOUTH DAKOTA

South Dakota School for the Visually Handicapped;
Aberdeen
Charles B. Boyer, Superintendent (80-82)
Division of Services to the Visually Impaired; Pierre
David Vogel, Director (72-83)

TENNESSEE

Tennessee School for the Blind; Donelson
Jack Rumbaugh, Superintendent (70-85)
Volunteer Blind Industries; Morristown
J. C. Austin, Executive Director (79-83)

TEXAS

Dallas Lighthouse for the Blind; Dallas
Austin G. Scott, President (70-85)

Dallas Services for Visually Impaired Children; Dallas
Chris Tompkins, Executive Director (70-85)

Lighthouse for the Blind of Houston; Houston
Gibson M. DuTerroil, President (69-86)

VIRGINIA

Virginia Department for the Visually Handicapped;
Richmond
William T. Coppage, Director (69-84)

WASHINGTON

Lighthouse for the Blind; Seattle
George Jacobson, Executive Director (71-82)

WEST VIRGINIA

West Virginia School for the Blind; Romney
Jack W. Brady, Superintendent (76-85)

WISCONSIN

Wisconsin School for the Visually Handicapped;
Janesville
William H. English, Superintendent (73-83)
Industries for the Blind; Milwaukee
Claude W. Hirsch, Executive Vice President (78-83)

New Publications Order Form Available

Our updated Publications Order Form, which became effective January 1, 1982, reflects new prices for NAC publications. Like every other organization, NAC has been hit by inflation. Most prices for self-study and evaluation guides have been increased to \$2 or \$2.50. This enables us to recover our direct printing and mailing costs; we absorb overhead.

8

Four Agencies Accredited from page 1

Chairman James D. McComas hailed the accomplishments of these organizations and extended the Commission's congratulations to them. In other actions, the Commission extended the accreditation of four agencies and schools to the maximum period, and postponed decisions on three applications for reaccreditation until the next meeting.

A complete list of accredited organizations appears in this issue.

NATIONAL ACCREDITATION COUNCIL
for Agencies Serving the Blind and Visually Handicapped

79 Madison Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10016



M.R.
1982 FEB -4 AM 9 13

Mr. Sam Negrin-Director of Community Svcs
American Foundation for the Blind
15 West 16th Street
New York, NY 10011

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S. N.

The Standard-Bearer



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S. N.

NATIONAL ACCREDITATION COUNCIL
FOR AGENCIES SERVING THE BLIND & VISUALLY HANDICAPPED

No. 41

May 1982

National Information Bureau Rates NAC

NAC is pleased to announce that it has been found to meet the standards of the National Information Bureau (NIB). Announcement of the rating was made in the March 1 edition of the *Wise Giving Guide* and copies of the evaluation may be obtained from NIB, 419 Park Avenue South, New York, New York, 10016, or from NAC. The NIB evaluation concludes that NAC "strengthens and improves the services and management of organizations for the blind and it gives blind people and contributors a way to identify those agencies and schools that are achieving maximum effectiveness."

Commenting on the announcement, M.C. Van de Workeen, NIB executive director said, "NAC, long a colleague of ours in the standard-setting and evaluation field, is to be congratulated not only for meeting our standards, but for its integrity in relinquishing the privileges of collegue-ship and requesting the evaluation. This effort to seek out independent external review is continued testimony of NAC's excellence and accountability."

Mr. Van de Workeen also commented on the importance of NAC's accreditation process to potential contributors: "Constituents of the National Information Bureau are benefiting from NAC's list of accredited agencies and schools for the blind. NIB evaluates a number of national charities serving blind people, and we are now advising the philanthropic community as to which of them are NAC accredited."

continued on page 4

Feds Evaluate NAC Again

The Department of Education has recommended that the Secretary of Education renew his recognition of NAC for four more years. This will be the third time that NAC has received this recognition as the reliable authority "for accreditation of specialized schools for the blind and visually handicapped."

Recognition is considered by the Secretary after a detailed review by the Department which results in a written analysis. The current analysis finds NAC to be in excellent shape; there are no "issues or problem areas" which require attention and no areas of "potential non-compliance."

continued on page 2

NAC's Team Grows

NAC is pleased to announce that two more organizations have affiliated with it, bringing the total number of Sponsors and Supporters to 47. The Council of Executives of American Residential Schools for the Visually Handicapped, which recently adopted a resolution supporting linkage between the allocation of funding and accreditation, has become our newest Sponsor. And Mississippi State University, whose President, James D. McComas, is Chairman of NAC's Commission on Accreditation, joins our growing team of Supporters. A complete list of our Sponsors and Supporters appears elsewhere in this issue.



Comments from the Executive Director

In this issue of *The Standard Bearer* we feature articles about recent evaluations of NAC by the Department of Education and the National Information Bureau. The importance of these evaluations is not limited to their complimentary findings. A basic premise of the accreditation process is that organizations voluntarily engage in self-examination and voluntarily seek external review. NAC would be a less credible organization if it did not engage in the process it advocates and provides for agencies and schools for the blind.

We practice what we preach. Self-scrutiny and external review are standard operating procedures with NAC. They record our achievements, help us to do better, and give you a solid basis for your confidence in us.

We also receive occasional criticism, which we welcome. Constructive criticism, like internal and external evaluation, helps us along the road to excellence.

Even hostile criticism has its place. The leadership of the National Federation of the Blind, for example, has accused us of "harming the blind" and not involving the "organized blind" in our work. While these attacks have been found baseless over and over again, they nonetheless help us to keep our methods and procedures exemplary.

It isn't enough for NAC to perform well today. Accrediting bodies must be effective tomorrow, next year, and beyond, if we are to truly meet the needs of those we serve. Self and independent evaluation, plus any type of criticism, will continue to spur us on. Your assessment of our mission and our performance is important. Let us know how we can serve you better.

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Janet A. Strauss as Staff Associate in the NAC office. Ms. Strauss graduated cum laude from Mount Holyoke College and obtained her M.P.H. from the University of Michigan. Before joining NAC she served as chief administrator of the Council on Education for Public Health, another accrediting association which — like NAC — enjoys the recognition of the Department of Education.

My comments end on two dour notes. The accreditation of the Evansville Association for the Blind recently was allowed to expire because the Commission on Accreditation determined that it "no longer served blind people as its primary purpose." And finally, we say good-bye to Ann Barber and Huesten Collingwood, who leave NAC after a combined total of over two decades of dedicated service.

—Richard W. Bleecker

Feds Evaluate NAC Again continued from page 1

The analysis notes that NAC holds the distinction of being "the first accrediting agency for education under the post-secondary level to be recognized . . . and one of the few to have received initial recognition for the maximum allowable period of four years."

NAC's initial recognition came in 1971. When NAC came under review again in 1975 it was evaluated according to a newly revised set of criteria which stressed organizational function, responsibility, accountability and reliability. These same criteria were used in the recent evaluation.

The 1975 report listed two problem areas. One concerned NAC's methods of reporting accreditation decisions; the other, representation by schools for the blind on constituted bodies within the NAC structure. In addition, the 1975 evaluation found several areas of potential non-compliance, relating to NAC's financial structure, its educational standards and its training programs.

NAC's determination and thoroughness in responding to these concerns is measured by the unqualified recommendation presented to the Secretary this time.



Sponsors and Supporters are national, state and local organizations which help NAC improve services to blind and visually handicapped Americans by promoting and supporting NAC. These organizations, because their activities are not encompassed by the NAC standards, are not eligible to seek accreditation and are not evaluated by NAC.

**SPONSORING
MEMBERS**

Affiliated Leadership League of and for the Blind of America
American Association of Workers for the Blind (AAWB)
American Council of the Blind (ACB)
American Foundation for the Blind
Association for Education of the Visually Handicapped (AEVH)
Association of Rehabilitation Teachers
Council of Executives of American Residential Schools
for the Visually Handicapped
Council of Rehabilitation Specialists, ACB
General Council of Workshops for the Blind
Guide Dog Users, ACB
International Services for the Blind
National Braille Association
National Industries for the Blind
United States Association for Blind Athletes
Visually Impaired Secretarial Transcribers Association, ACB

**SUPPORTING
MEMBERS**

American Council of the Blind of New York State, ACB
American Council of the Blind of South Carolina, ACB
Arizona Association of Workers With the Blind, AAWB
Arkansas Chapter, AAWB
Arkansas Council of the Blind, ACB
Blinded Veterans Association, New York
Delta Gamma Foundation
Department of Rehabilitation and Special Education, University of
Arkansas at Little Rock
Georgia Association of Rehabilitation Facilities
Georgia Chapter, AAWB
Georgia Federation of the Blind, ACB
Gopher State Blind Associates, Minnesota ACB
Hartford Graduate Center
Helen Keller International
Illinois Association of Workers for the Blind, AAWB
Illinois Chapter, AEVH
Illinois Federation of the Blind, ACB
Iowa Council of the Blind, ACB
Louisiana Council of the Blind, ACB
Matilda Ziegler Magazine for the Blind
Michigan Association of the Blind, ACB
Minnesota Chapter, AAWB
Mississippi Council of the Blind, ACB
Mississippi State University
National Society to Prevent Blindness
New York State Association of Workers for the Blind, AAWB
Oklahoma Chapter, AAWB
Oklahoma Council of the Blind, ACB
Pennsylvania Council of the Blind, ACB
South Dakota Association for the Blind, ACB
Tennessee Council of the Blind, ACB
Wisconsin Chapter, AAWB

Robinson Reviews Term

Nearing completion of his term as Chairman of the Commission on Advancement of Standards, Daniel D. Robinson prefers to address challenges that confront NAC rather than point to the Commission's accomplishments. "Much needs to be done to increase NAC's visibility among consumers, professionals and the public," says Mr. Robinson. "NAC is becoming well accepted, but more agencies and schools need to use accreditation, more consumers and professionals need to participate in NAC's programs, and the public needs to better understand how NAC can determine which services deserve support."

Twice since NAC's inception, Mr. Robinson has served two consecutive terms on the Board of Directors, longer than any other member. When he rotates off the Board in November, he will conclude his term as Chairman of one of NAC's most important programs. The Commission on Advancement of Standards guides NAC's efforts to stimulate the use of standards and accreditation and to develop public, consumer and professional participation in NAC. Under Mr. Robinson, access by blind people to NAC materials was strengthened by producing them in alternate media, and the number of Sponsors and Supporters grew in the last five years from 15 to 47.

Mr. Robinson is one of NAC's most distinguished volunteer leaders. He was a member of COMSTAC, which formulated the original standards in the 1960's. A partner with Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Co., an international public accounting and management consulting firm, Mr. Robinson helped NAC institute its long range planning mechanism, served as its Treasurer, and chaired its Program Support Committee. He served as its President from 1973 to 1975 and launched a review of NAC's provisions for consumer involvement which led to the adoption, during a special corporate membership meeting in 1975, of far-reaching policies to strengthen the consumer's role in all of NAC's governance and professional areas.

The biggest challenge confronting NAC in the 1980's, believes Mr. Robinson, is the extent to which incentives are provided for agencies and schools to achieve accreditation. "It is heartening to see that leaders in this field have begun to real-



DANIEL D. ROBINSON

ize that sanctions and benefits are needed to help schools and agencies make better use of NAC accreditation."

For over a decade, Daniel D. Robinson's commitment to NAC has been unwavering. Although he leaves the Board, he continues to be a member of the President's Council; we will continue to depend on him for guidance and inspiration.

NIB Rates NAC
continued from page 1

NIB is a not-for-profit corporation founded in 1918 whose stated purpose is "1) to maintain standards in its field of philanthropy and 2) to help thoughtful contributors to give wisely."

Maine Center Revitalizes Through Accreditation

In these hard times do you ever wonder "why accreditation?" Do you ever think it is a luxury you may not be able to afford? The experience of the Maine Center for the Blind suggests that the accreditation process may be most necessary in hard times. By involving the public, consumers, and funding bodies, the accreditation process can unite people in their efforts to protect and improve services. Dr. Robert Crouse, executive director of the Maine Center, believes that "the experience at the Maine Center of employing accreditation standards to revitalize services and create changes in philosophy and direction was positive and dynamic."

In the late 1970's the Center fell on hard times. Consumers began to criticize the operation of the agency. Once respected programs no longer met standards for service and public accountability. NAC accreditation was withdrawn, and funding bodies withheld their support.

The Center's Board of Directors was responsive to these sanctions and carefully studied the agency's problems. The two questions most frequently asked were: "how are we doing financially?" and "what needs to be done to again qualify for accreditation?" The Board set three goals: 1) employ an administrator and staff professionally trained in services for the blind, 2) resolve the financial problems and 3) achieve accreditation once again.

NAC's standards and the prior on-site review report provided necessary cohesion to the rebuilding of the Center's operations - - - they were used to redesign existing systems and to establish new ones. The process of self-study was instrumental in helping the Center revamp its management, employ qualified personnel and establish services that were effective.

These efforts involved the entire community. Consumers supported the program improvements. Funding sources lent technical assistance and encouraged the Center to achieve accreditation again. This was accomplished in 1981 and led to renewed community support. Because the accreditation process is continuous, the Center expects to use NAC to further improve its programs and services for many years.

This is what Dr. Crouse has to say about his experience in restoring the Center to an acceptable level of quality and public accountability: "Accreditation by itself cannot guarantee the quality of service, nor can it solve every problem in a school or agency. But it can help an organization improve itself and it can bring people together to work on significant problems. The experience of the Maine Center for the Blind is an example of the effective use of accreditation to bring about necessary reform. The consumers and funding bodies who a short time ago were our biggest critics are now our staunchest advocates and supporters."

Nominate, Nominate

Morton Pepper, Chairman of NAC's Nominations Committee, has announced a call for nominations for the twelve Board of Director positions which become vacant this year. Seven directors are eligible for renomination for a second three-year term: Peter W. Connelly, Vernon Metcalf, LeRoy F. Saunders, Dean W. Tuttle, Evelyn G. Ullman, Richard G. Umsted and Ellsworth L. Sharpe. Five members will rotate off after serving for six years: Raymond A. Kempf, Joseph J. Larkin, Robert T. McLean, Oral O. Miller and Daniel D. Robinson.

NAC's strength depends on the skill and commitment of its directors. The Board's functions include 1) policy-making, 2) program planning and evaluation, and 3) financial stewardship. The Nominations Committee will evaluate the qualifications of each person suggested and prepare a slate of candidates for consideration by the corporate membership when it meets on November 6. Before you submit nominations, ask yourself: Does the person have knowledge or interest in the blindness field? Does the person understand and support NAC's goals? Will the person contribute significant time and energy? Does the person have the stature and experience to help NAC achieve its objectives? Will the person help NAC raise funds?

continued on page 6

Your Will Makes a Difference

If you are preparing or reviewing your will and want to leave a lasting memorial to benefit blind and visually handicapped Americans, we suggest that you consider a gift to NAC. The following form may be used:

"I give and bequeath to the National Accredita-

tion Council for Agencies Serving the Blind and Visually Handicapped, Inc., a not-for-profit corporation located in New York, N.Y. the sum of \$_____ (or a description of property or securities) (or a percentage of the estate), to be used in such manner as its Board of Directors determines."

Your generosity will aid blind and visually handicapped persons in getting the rehabilitation and education services they need to lead fulfilling and productive lives.

Nominate, Nominate
continued from page 3

The Committee seeks public members, professionals and consumers with diverse expertises and from all sectors of the community. In addition, NAC's By-laws provide that one-third of the directors shall be recommended by or be members of national organizations of the blind.

Mr. Pepper suggests that you nominate people who have an expressed interest in serving NAC. Letters of nomination, which should include biographical information about the candidate, will be accepted at the NAC office through August 15.

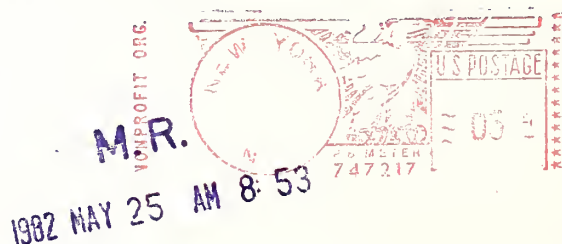
And by the way, it's not too early to think about NAC's Annual Meetings in Jackson, Mississippi, November 6 and 7. Co-hosts for the meetings include three NAC-accredited organizations: Mississippi School for the Blind, Royal Maid Association for the Blind, and the State Vocational Rehabilitation for the Blind, and two Supporters: Mississippi State University and Mississippi Council of the Blind. Mark your calendars.

NATIONAL ACCREDITATION COUNCIL for Agencies Serving the Blind and Visually Handicapped

79 Madison Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10016



NONPROFIT ORG.



Mr. Sam Negrin - Associate Director
American Foundation for the Blind
15 West 16th Street
New York, NY 10011

The Standard- Bearer

NATIONAL ACCREDITATION COUNCIL
FOR AGENCIES SERVING THE BLIND & VISUALLY HANDICAPPED

No. 42 August 1982

United Way Paves the Way for NAC Accreditation

While the scramble for funds continues among agencies and schools, the push is on among funding bodies to find reliable ways of discerning which agencies and schools do, in fact, offer the quality services consumers need and deserve.

The push was accelerated recently when William Aramony, President of the United Way of America, contacted over 150 United Way organizations across the country to describe the work of NAC and suggest its usefulness in making allocations decisions. Mr. Aramony stressed the benefits of NAC accreditation to communities and institutions: "Accreditation by NAC provides important assurances that the services are of high quality and therefore consistent with best practice in rehabilitation and education . . . The accreditation process also benefits those agencies and schools by focusing attention on their goals and by bringing together the trustees, staff, consumers, and community leaders to identify strengths, correct weaknesses, and improve service delivery."

United Way support for NAC stems from the growing realization that standard-setting and accreditation programs can help United Way organizations make more effective funding decisions. "It would be wise for United Ways to consider NAC accreditation as they make determinations about the allocation of funds to agencies and schools in the community that serve the blind and visually handicapped," says Mr. Aramony. NAC's specialized knowledge of blindness programs enriches United Way's evaluation procedures by validating the quality of services provided.

Continued on page 5

NAC Accredits Three — Reaccredits Nine

At its June 27-29 meeting, NAC's Commission on Accreditation granted first-time accreditation to two agencies and one school — Travis Association for the Blind, Austin, Texas; Visually Impaired Persons Department of the Milwaukee (Wisconsin) Area Technical College; and Texas School for the Blind, Austin.

Nine NAC members, including four schools and five agencies, were reaccredited — Alabama School for the Blind, Talladega; Association for the Blind

Continued on page 3

Minneapolis Society: Orderly Development Through Accreditation

In the late 1960's, the Minneapolis Society for the Blind (MSB), like many other institutions in America, found itself challenged by special interests seeking radical change. At the same time, MSB, which has served blind and visually handicapped Minnesotans since 1914, felt a commitment to continue to provide quality services to its consumers. Raymond A. Kempf (he is "Ray" to everyone who knows him), who serves both MSB and NAC as vice-president, recalls: "Initially the pressures disturbed us. We knew we wanted to continue providing the best services possible, but we were no longer certain of the best way to do this."

Continued on page 4



Comments From the Executive Director

NAC exists to serve those who want to strengthen and safeguard specialized services to blind and visually handicapped persons through standards and accreditation. In the next few issues of *The Standard Bearer* I'd like to talk about the various interests of those whom NAC serves — its public.

NAC's public, like Caesar's Gaul, is divided into three parts: consumers — blind and visually handicapped Americans who use the specialized services of agencies and schools; professionals — who provide these specialized services; and the general public — which affects and is affected by the quality and cost of these services in a variety of ways.

In this issue I will discuss consumers, and consumer involvement in NAC. I am pleased that we are featuring an article about the Minneapolis Society for the Blind. MSB's commitment to consumers is eloquent and concrete testimony of what our work is for.

Consumers have been the very reason for NAC's existence, and always, NAC has relied on consumer involvement. Since the COMSTAC days, consumers have been vital in formulating the standards used to evaluate services. Consumers on our board of directors and Commissions and committees are invaluable to our governance. Through participation as Sponsors and Supporters, consumers help to shape NAC and can help NAC to reach out to blind and visually handicapped people everywhere.

NAC has consistently worked to improve the depth and quality of its consumer participation. In 1974 a special membership meeting was called to discuss the need for increased involvement by national consumer organizations in NAC's activities. The membership made a significant change in the composition of the board of directors by providing that at least one-third of them are persons who are members of or recommended by such organizations. Numerous other changes were made as a result of that meeting to strengthen consumer involvement in standards and accreditation as well as in NAC's governing structure. As a result, NAC's commitment to consumer participation frequently is cited as a national model.

NAC preaches what it practices. Our management standards, for example, insist upon meaningful consumer participation in the work of accredited

agencies and schools. And we urge consumer involvement in organizations' self-studies and in the implementation of NAC recommendations for improvement. In preparing their reports, on-site review teams are responsive to the information elicited from consumers. We know how many people are directly affected by NAC's standards and accreditation programs; last year over 230,000 people received services from the ninety accredited agencies and schools.

Our efforts to insure responsible consumer involvement in NAC and in the field must continue and will no doubt accelerate. This is our commitment to the first of our three vital publics.

I close with two pieces of good news. The Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education has extended his recognition of NAC as the national accrediting agency for specialized schools for the blind and visually handicapped for the maximum period, through June 24, 1986. And NAC welcomes Gerald Kitzhoffer as our new staff associate. Mr. Kitzhoffer completed undergraduate work in special education at Kutztown State College and received a master's degree in blind rehabilitation and orientation and mobility at Western Michigan University. Most recently he was assistant professor at the University of Northern Colorado, where he taught orientation and mobility in the special education department.

— Richard W. Bleecker

Record Year for Sponsors and Supporters

In the last year, ten organizations involved with services for blind and visually handicapped people have joined NAC as Sponsors and Supporters. This sets a record for a one-year period and brings our total number of Sponsors and Supporters to 46 as of June 30th.

The newest Sponsor is the Division for the Visually Handicapped, Council for Exceptional Children. The Mississippi Association of Workers for the Blind, AAWB, is NAC's newest Supporter and co-host for the Annual Meeting to be held in Jackson, Mississippi on November 6th and 7th.



A Special Message From NAC's President

Editor's Note

It is not the practice of The Standard-Bearer to publish lengthy reflective articles on controversial matters. But when NAC's president, Otis H. Stephens, sent us his thoughts on the recent "peace initiative" with the national leadership of the National Federation of the Blind, it was decided to make this essay available to NAC's readers. Therefore, this insert has been added to the newsletter. Dr. Stephens writes as both observer and participant in major current events.

On May 7, 1982, discussions between representatives of the American Foundation for the Blind and the National Federation of the Blind were suspended. William F. Gallagher, executive director of AFB, summarized the reasons for his decision to terminate the discussions by citing the "continued failure on the part of Dr. Kenneth Jernigan to demonstrate good faith." Because this event seems to me to be of such gravity and significance, I feel compelled to offer some reflections on its meaning.

Virtually everyone recognizes that the strident tone of the NFB leadership's opposition to NAC and its repeated attacks against accredited agencies and schools have adversely affected the movement toward quality services in this field. This unrelenting opposition led the NAC Board of Directors, in November 1979, to adopt a resolution asserting that the NFB leadership, through its opposition to standards and accreditation, is harmful to the welfare of blind and visually handicapped persons.

In this context, and shortly after assuming his present position, Mr. Gallagher initiated discussions with NFB President Dr. Kenneth Jernigan in an attempt to resolve the persistent conflict between NFB and the many organizations providing services to blind persons. Unquestionably, resolution of the conflict would greatly benefit blind people throughout the country.

From the very beginning, NAC supported Mr. Gallagher's commendable peace initiative. I participated in four meetings with Dr. Jernigan concerning the value of NAC accreditation and the purported rationale behind NFB's actions against the accreditation system.

Many possibilities for conciliation were explored in these discussions. At one point I suggested the possibility of a mutual easing of tension through abandonment of the NFB policy "to control or destroy NAC" in exchange for withdrawal of the NAC resolution on the NFB leadership. On another occasion, I stressed the importance of some tangible indication on the part of NFB that it was, in fact, seriously interested in a settlement of the conflict. Any reasonable gesture on Dr. Jernigan's part would have been sufficient to justify continuation of the talks.

But no accommodation was forthcoming. The NFB leadership persisted in its opposition to NAC's standards and accreditation, and its charges that NAC fosters custodialism and abuse of blind people. Though these charges have been refuted countless times, the NFB leadership refused to acknowledge such refutation. Furthermore, none of the voluminous endorsements and studies of NAC regarding its positive attributes, its achievements or the value of standards and accreditation to blind persons was given serious consideration or acknowledged.

I devoted considerable time and effort to researching and preparing for the discussions. The entire NAC organization involved itself in the effort to achieve peace. At the final meeting in Knoxville last December, I was joined by NAC's ex-

Continued

ecutive director, Dr. Richard W. Bleecker and by Dr. Dean Tuttle, a former chairman of the Commission on Accreditation. On this occasion we examined the whole range of NFB accusations, thoroughly reviewed the benefits of accreditation as they have been documented by a number of agencies, and discussed again the independent evaluations of NAC which have repeatedly recognized it as an exemplary organization.

After this lengthy session, however, it was clear that nothing had changed, except perhaps that lines of communication with the NFB leadership had been strengthened. This factor could be beneficial if a genuine basis of cooperation can be established in the future. Unless we can arrive at some shared first premise, however, we have no basis for dialog. Mere discussion alone cannot move us beyond the present impasse.

Recognizing that we had gone as far as possible in the absence of any tangible indication that NFB wanted resolution of the conflict, I scheduled no more meetings with Dr. Jernigan after December. Nevertheless we did continue to support Mr. Gallagher's persistent efforts to achieve a basis of cooperation with NFB. We hoped that his meeting with NFB in Baltimore this May would produce the necessary breakthrough.

The events of that meeting made it clear that this hope was not to be realized. As Mr. Gallagher pointed out, the mere "rehashing of old issues" serves only to block serious negotiations. Resort to "injurious accusations and humiliating ridicule" can serve only to intensify the long-smoldering conflict between NFB and the rest of the field. The "unrelenting negativism" of NFB's leadership cannot serve the best interests of blind people or lead to peace in the field. With characteristic patience, however, Mr. Gallagher held open the possibility of reinstating the discussions if and when "there is a clear demonstration of good faith and a willingness on the part of NFB to approach such meetings with an open mind, a positive attitude, and a commitment to success."

And that is where we stand today. NAC represents the field's strongest and most extensive commitment to the systematic evaluation and continued improvement of services to blind persons throughout the United States. Composed of diverse groups of organizations and individuals, broadly representing consumers, professionals, and the general public, NAC is not dominated by a single point of view or any cluster of "special interests." In the light of significant and growing consumer participation in all aspects of the accreditation process, it is difficult to understand how NFB can remain unalterably opposed to NAC and expect to have credibility.

The NFB leaders who have persistently attacked the accreditation movement have not met the burden of supporting their own charges. Moreover, they have ignored the mountain of evidence supporting the conclusion that NAC acts in the best interests of consumers, is good for the field in general, and is becoming more important as the monitoring role of the federal government diminishes. It is time for NAC's critics to reevaluate their position. The opportunity for such reevaluation was presented to them through the peace initiative. Those of us who support NAC are willing to work toward a responsible settlement of the conflict with NFB. But we are unwilling to participate in discussions with anyone whose apparent intention is to exploit the process for political purposes.

Otis H. Stephens
Knoxville, Tennessee
July, 1982

Update on Standards

One Down . . .

NAC is pleased to announce formal adoption of newly revised standards for rehabilitation centers. According to Owen R. Davison, chairman of the Commission on Standards which directed the project, "Approval by the Board of Directors concludes a year-long review and revision of standards originally formulated in the 1960's."

William F. Gallagher, chairman of the national technical committee responsible for the project, said: "The newly streamlined self-study and evaluation guide incorporates new standards for services to multihandicapped persons. In addition, the guide strengthens standards for medical and psychological services, and resident services, as well as providing guidelines for overall rehabilitation center planning and evaluation." Print copies of the new self-study and evaluation guide are available from NAC for \$2.50 each. D-3

Twelve professionals, consumers and lay persons served as members of the committee. In addition to Mr. Gallagher, who is executive director of the American Foundation for the Blind, they are: James Acton, Veterans Administration Hospital, West Haven, Connecticut; Michael Atella, Illinois Visually Handicapped Institute; James Cordell, Arkansas Enterprises for the Blind; William Gellman, DePaul University; John D. Kemp, Commission on Accreditation for Rehabilitation Facilities; Carl R. McCoy, Division of Blind Services, Tallahassee, Florida; Andrew Potok, author, Vermont; Robert J. Smithdas, Helen Keller National Center.

. . . And Two to Go

NAC will revise two sets of standards this year, according to Owen R. Davison: Public Relations and Fund Raising, and Workshop Services. Work on these projects, which have received outside funding, has already begun under chairmen Fred McDonald and William S. Thompson, of the respective standards advisory committees. Each of these volunteers brings experience and commitment to the job. Mr. McDonald is president of his own management consulting firm and a member of NAC's Commission on Standards. His knowledge of both management and standards development qualify him well for his new undertaking. And Mr. Thompson, currently executive director of The Lighthouse for the Blind of the Palm Beaches, West Palm Beach, Florida has extensive experience with workshops. He is a past president of the General Council of Workshops for the Blind and a member of the National Industries for the Blind board.

The revision of these sets was undertaken after a decision was made to postpone until 1983 the commencement of the "Second Generation" of standards revisions. All twenty-five sets of standards are scheduled for revision during the three phases of the Second Generation, each expected to take about 2½ years.

The first phase will concentrate on management standards: Function and Structure, Accounting for Services and Finances, Personnel Administration

Continued on page 5

NAC Accredits Three —
Reaccredits Nine

from page 1

of Rochester and Monroe County, Rochester, New York; Department for the Visually Handicapped, Arizona State School for the Deaf and the Blind, Tucson; Governor Morehead School, Raleigh, North Carolina; Jewish Guild for the Blind, New York, New York; Kansas City Association for the Blind, Kansas City, Missouri; Lighthouse for the Blind, Seattle, Washington; Rhode Island State Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Providence; and Blind Association of Western New York, Buffalo.

Chairman James D. McComas, in notifying these schools and agencies of the Commission's decisions, praised their achievements in serving blind children and adults.

In other actions, the Commission extended the accreditation of four organizations, postponed accreditation of one and reaccreditation of two until its December 1982 meeting.

A complete list of accredited organizations appears in this issue.



Raymond A. Kempf

Minneapolis Society: Orderly
Development Through Accreditation from page 1

The Minneapolis Society's achievement of NAC accreditation in 1970 launched it from those difficult times into a period of orderly development which continues to this day and which has made it one of the most consumer-minded agencies in the country. The number of persons served by MSB has grown from 540 in 1970 to over 720, while the staff has increased from about 55 to 80. In the same period, its budget has more than doubled, and its physical plant has increased in size from 55,000 to 85,000 square feet and has been extensively modernized.

Mr. Kempf recalls the agency's initial NAC experience: "the self-study and the preparation for the on-site review provided the means by which a much stronger working relationship was established between staff, board members, and interested persons from the community." MSB was reaccredited in 1976 and again in 1981, each time after exhaustive study. "The NAC standards and recommendations have given us clear and orderly guides to achieving the kinds of changes the times demand," reflects Mr. Kempf. "We've undergone careful reviews of our philosophy and program objectives, our entire administrative structure, our workshop and rehabilitation services . . . everything from 'a' to 'z'. And the recommendations made by NAC have led to greater

consumer involvement in our agency." In the twelve years following its initial accreditation, for example, MSB has pioneered in serving blind diabetics, developed an innovative program for deaf/blind persons, expanded services for older blind persons and recently opened a low vision clinic. In addition, it has dramatically increased the number of qualified blind persons serving on its board of directors.

The major not-for-profit organization serving blind and visually handicapped people in the Twin Cities area and the only NAC accredited agency in Minnesota, the Minneapolis Society enjoys very good relationships with key organizations in the community and with consumer groups (except NFB).

Throughout this period of development and growth, MSB faced a significant challenge. After a lengthy court battle, it was ordered to hold an election open to anyone in the country. This led to nationwide campaigns by both MSB and NFB. During the campaign, NAC supported MSB's efforts, which were successful. "Not only has NAC helped toward sharper self-definition," asserts Mr. Kempf, "it also defended our right to maintain our corporate identity."

It should not be surprising given this rich history that volunteers and staff of the Minneapolis Society for the Blind are increasingly active and effective in addressing issues related to the improvement of services to blind people at the national level as well as in Minnesota. In addition to Mr. Kempf: Richard Johnstone, MSB president, is on the Affiliated Leadership League of and for the Blind board; James R. Olsen, MSB assistant treasurer and a NAC director, is American Council of the Blind treasurer and executive director of the American Council of the Blind Enterprises and Services; and Melvin E. Saterbak, who has been employed by MSB for over twenty years and is now its executive director, has been elected to the National Industries for the Blind board and is a General Council of Workshops for the Blind regional representative.

NAC has helped to shape the Minneapolis Society for the Blind, and MSB, in turn, is helping to shape the field.

Will Power

Did you know that most people in the United States die without leaving a will? They say that they don't need a will, either because they feel they don't have enough money, or because they believe that the state will distribute their property for them.

If you are one of these people, consider this: if you die intestate — without a will — the state will divide your property according to law, but generally not in the same fashion you would have desired. Leaving a will is the only way to ensure that your estate is divided according to your wishes, and the only way to know that your support for schools, religious institutions, and favorite charities will continue.

Not only should you have a will, you should also keep it up to date. Have changes in your financial or living situation occurred, necessitating changes to your will? Have you moved to another state? Are you using all current opportunities to

reduce estate taxes? Is your executor still living? Have the needs of your beneficiaries changed?

When you consider the charities you are *now* contributing to, or would like to contribute to, remember NAC. A bequest to the National Accreditation Council would be very much appreciated; it will support NAC's development and in so doing, help to assure quality services for blind Americans for many years to come.

When writing a will, the following form may be used: "I give and bequeath to the National Accreditation Council for Agencies Serving the Blind and Visually Handicapped, Inc., a not-for-profit corporation located in New York, N.Y., the sum of \$ _____ (or a description of property or securities) (or a percentage of the estate), to be used in such manner as the Board of Directors determines."

... And Two to Go

from page 3

and Volunteer Service, Physical Facilities, and Public Relations and Fund Raising. In the second and third phases, standards for services for adults and children will be revised.

The original standards were codified by the Commission on Standards and Accreditation of Services for the Blind (COMSTAC) in 1964-66. Over the years, in response to the needs and wishes of the field, NAC has added to the original five sets of management and seven sets of service standards.

Public Relations and Fund Raising is the last of COMSTAC's management standards to be revised in the "First Generation" of comprehensive revisions which began in 1974. The Workshop Services standards are being revised for a second time at the request of National Industries for the Blind and the General Council of Workshops for the Blind. These two revision projects will serve as prototypes for the Second Generation.

United Way Paves the Way
for NAC Accreditation

from page 1

United Ways in numerous cities already are making use of NAC in ways suggested by Mr. Aramony. Through its participation in the application for reaccreditation of the Blind Association of Western New York, for example, the United Way of Buffalo appreciates this accredited agency's strengths and is helping it implement the team's recommendations by providing the motivation and the funding to get the changes made.

In Atlanta, United Way used the NAC standards to determine how to restructure services for the blind in the community and make more efficient use of available resources. It directed two agencies for the blind to merge; the result was a new, more viable organization — Atlanta Area Services for the Blind — which United Way encouraged and assisted to achieve NAC accreditation.

These days, when funding is so tight, NAC is increasingly being recognized as a significant instrument for preserving essential services within local communities.



Look For This Symbol
of Quality

List of Accredited Members

as of June 30, 1982

Accreditation by NAC signifies that an agency or school for the blind meets nationally accepted standards for quality services, responsible management, and public accountability.

Two dates appear for each agency or school: the year when accreditation was first achieved, and the year through which accreditation is awarded.

This list of accredited members assists blind and visually handicapped people to select quality services. And it assists the public—which supports these services through contributions and taxes—to identify agencies and schools that are demonstrating their effectiveness and accountability.

ALABAMA

- Alabama School for the Blind; Talladega
Ronald L. Garrett, Principal (78-85)
- Department of Adult Blind and Deaf of the Alabama
Institute for Deaf and Blind; Talladega
Hank Baud, Director (77-83)

ARIZONA

- Services for the Blind Section; Phoenix
K. Edward House, Manager (71-86)
- Foundation for Blind Children; Scottsdale
John H. Maxson, Executive Director (78-83)
- Department for the Visually Handicapped, Arizona State
School for the Deaf and the Blind; Tucson
Ralph L. Hoag, Superintendent (72-87)
- Tucson Association for the Blind; Tucson
Kenneth W. Gavitt, Executive Director (80-85)
- Yuma Center for the Visually Impaired; Yuma
Jim J. Mullin, Director (81-84)

ARKANSAS

- Arkansas Enterprises for the Blind; Little Rock
James Cordell, Executive Director (69-84)
- Arkansas School for the Blind; Little Rock
Hugh A. Pace, Superintendent (69-84)
- Arkansas State Office for the Blind and Visually
Impaired; Little Rock
Richard Seifert, Administrator (76-86)

CALIFORNIA

- Sacramento Society for the Blind; Sacramento
Thomas C. Ryan, Executive Director (73-83)

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

- Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind
Charles A. Fegan, Executive Director (70-83)

FLORIDA

- Conklin Center for Multihandicapped Blind;
Daytona Beach
Edward F. McCoy, Executive Director (81-83)
- Florida Association of Workers for the Blind; Miami
Vernon Metcalf, Executive Director (78-83)

- Department for the Blind, Florida School for the Deaf
and the Blind; St. Augustine
Robert T. Dawson, President (78-83)

- Florida Division of Blind Services; Tallahassee
Donald H. Wedewer, Director (74-84)

- Tampa Lighthouse for the Blind; Tampa
C. E. Olstrom, Executive Director (76-87)

- Lighthouse for the Blind of the Palm Beaches; West Palm
Beach
William S. Thompson, Executive Director (80-82)

GEORGIA

- Atlanta Area Services for the Blind; Atlanta
Carolyn Kokege, Executive Director (72-83)
- Georgia Factory for the Blind; Bainbridge
Clayton Penhallegon, Executive Director (78-83)
- Georgia Academy for the Blind; Macon
Richard E. Hyer, Jr., Superintendent (78-83)

HAWAII

- Services for the Blind Branch; Honolulu
Beatrice Higuchi, Administrator (72-82)

ILLINOIS

- Chicago Lighthouse for the Blind; Chicago
Milton Samuelson, Executive Director (71-86)
- Community Services for the Visually Handicapped;
Chicago
Peter R. Paul, Superintendent (77-82)
- Illinois Visually Handicapped Institute; Chicago
Thomas J. Murphy, Superintendent (75-82)
- Illinois School for the Visually Impaired; Jacksonville
Richard G. Umsted, Superintendent (75-85)
- Hadley School for the Blind; Winnetka
Robert J. Winn, President (70-85)

IOWA

- Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School; Vinton
Richard M. DeMott, Superintendent (71-86)

KANSAS

- Kansas Division of Services for the Blind; Topeka
Richard A. Schutz, Director (71-83)

LOUISIANA

- Louisiana Association for the Blind; Shreveport
DeWayne Robertson, Executive Director (70-83)

MAINE

- Division of Eye Care; Augusta
Paul E. Rourke, Director (70-85)

- Maine Center for the Blind; Portland
Robert J. Crouse, Executive Director (81-84)

MARYLAND

- Maryland School for the Blind; Baltimore
Richard L. Welsh, Superintendent (69-85)

MASSACHUSETTS

Perkins School for the Blind; Watertown
Charles C. Woodcock, Director (70-86)

MICHIGAN

Greater Detroit Society for the Blind; Detroit
Carroll Jackson, Executive Director (70-86)

Association for the Blind and for Sight Conservation;
Grand Rapids
William J. Leeder, Executive Vice President (79-84)

Michigan School for the Blind; Lansing
Murray Batten, Acting Superintendent (70-86)

MINNESOTA

Minneapolis Society for the Blind; Minneapolis
Melvin E. Saterbak, Executive Director (70-86)

MISSISSIPPI

Royal Maid Association for the Blind; Hazlehurst
John L. Granger, Vice President (71-83)

Mississippi School for the Blind; Jackson
R. C. Benton, Superintendent (80-83)

Vocational Rehabilitation for the Blind; Jackson
J. Elton Moore, Director (73-83)

MISSOURI

Kansas City Association for the Blind; Kansas City
Thomas Healy, Executive Director (71-84)

NEW HAMPSHIRE

New Hampshire Association for the Blind; Concord
Gale N. Stickler, Executive Director (73-84)

NEW JERSEY

St. Joseph's School for the Blind; Jersey City
Sr. Mary Kuiken, CSJ, Administrator (72-83)

NEW MEXICO

New Mexico School for the Visually Handicapped;
Alamogordo
Jerry Watkins, Superintendent (79-84)

NEW YORK

Northeastern Association of the Blind at Albany; Albany
Michael B. Freedman, Executive Director (75-82)

Blind Work Association; Binghamton
Conrad Range, Managing Director (71-83)

Industrial Home for the Blind; Brooklyn
Joseph J. Larkin, Executive Director (71-82)

New York Institute for the Education of the Blind;
Bronx
Nancy W. Bryant, Director (78-83)

Blind Association of Western New York; Buffalo
Michael L. Comini, Executive Director (73-84)

Center for Independent Living; New York
Douglas E. Inkster, Executive Director (80-85)

Jewish Guild for the Blind; New York
John F. Heimerdinger, Executive Director (72-87)

New York Association for the Blind; New York
Wesley D. Sprague, Executive Director (70-85)

Recording for the Blind; New York
Stuart Carothers, Executive Director (72-83)

Association for the Blind of Rochester and
Monroe County; Rochester
Stanley J. Grenn, Executive Director (76-85)

Syracuse Association of Workers for the Blind;
Syracuse
Milton Rosenblum, Executive Director (71-84)

Central Association for the Blind; Utica
Donald D. LoGuidice, Executive Director (77-84)

Guiding Eyes for the Blind; Yorktown Heights
Donald Z. Kauth, Executive Director (74-83)

NORTH CAROLINA

Governor Morehead School; Raleigh
Samuel J. Cole, Superintendent (72-87)

NORTH DAKOTA

North Dakota School for the Blind; Grand Forks
Charles R. Borchert, Superintendent (80-82)

OHIO

Cincinnati Association for the Blind; Cincinnati
Milton A. Jahoda, Executive Director (69-85)

Clovernook Home and School for the Blind;
Cincinnati
Gerald W. Mundy, Executive Director (76-85)

Cleveland Society for the Blind; Cleveland
Cleo B. Dolan, Executive Director (68-85)

Ohio State School for the Blind; Columbus
Dennis L. Holmes, Superintendent (69-85)

Center for the Visually Impaired; Elyria
Terry R. Lugenbeal, Executive Director (81-84)

Vision Center of Central Ohio; Columbus
Robert E. Mathews, Executive Director (75-84)

Toledo Society for the Blind; Toledo
Barry A. McEwen, Executive Director (78-83)

OKLAHOMA

Parkview School; Muskogee
Ronald M. Casey, Superintendent (70-85)

Division of Visual Services; Oklahoma City
Travis Harris, Administrative Assistant (78-83)

Oklahoma League for the Blind; Oklahoma City
LeRoy F. Saunders, Executive Director (78-83)

PENNSYLVANIA

Lancaster County Branch, Pennsylvania
Association for the Blind; Lancaster
Marion R. Campbell, Executive Director (73-82)

Pittsburgh Branch, Pennsylvania Association for the
Blind; Pittsburgh
Dennis J. Huber, Executive Director (70-85)

PUERTO RICO

Loaiza Cordero Institute for Blind Children; Santurce
Celsa C. Alonso, Director (81-83)

RHODE ISLAND

Rhode Island Association for the Blind; Providence
Robert H. Carolan, Executive Director (68-85)

Continued →



List of Accredited Members, *continued*

Rhode Island State Services for the Blind and
Visually Impaired; Providence
E. Lyman D'Andrea, Administrator (70-86)

SOUTH DAKOTA

South Dakota School for the Visually Handicapped;
Aberdeen
Charles B. Boyer, Superintendent (80-82)

Division of Services to the Visually Impaired; Pierre
David Vogel, Director (72-83)

TENNESSEE

Tennessee School for the Blind; Donelson
Jack Rumbaugh, Superintendent (70-85)

Volunteer Blind Industries; Morristown
J. C. Austin, Executive Director (79-83)

TEXAS

Texas School for the Blind; Austin
William H. Miller, Superintendent (82-84)

Travis Association for the Blind, Austin
Fred M. Weber, Director (82-84)

Dallas Lighthouse for the Blind; Dallas
Austin G. Scott, President (70-85)

Dallas Services for Visually Impaired Children; Dallas
Chris Tompkins, Executive Director (70-85)

Lighthouse for the Blind of Houston; Houston
Gibson M. DuTerroil, President (69-86)

VIRGINIA

Virginia Department for the Visually Handicapped;
Richmond
William T. Coppage, Director (69-84)

WASHINGTON

Lighthouse for the Blind; Seattle
George Jacobson, Executive Director (71-87)

WEST VIRGINIA

West Virginia School for the Blind; Romney
Jack W. Brady, Superintendent (76-85)

WISCONSIN

Visually Impaired Persons Department, Milwaukee
Area Technical College; Milwaukee
George Sippl, Supervisor (82-87)

Wisconsin School for the Visually Handicapped;
Janesville
William H. English, Superintendent (73-83)

Industries for the Blind; Milwaukee
Claude W. Hirsch, Executive Vice President (78-83)

NATIONAL ACCREDITATION COUNCIL
for Agencies Serving the Blind and Visually Handicapped

79 Madison Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10016



The Standard- Bearer

NATIONAL ACCREDITATION COUNCIL
FOR AGENCIES SERVING THE BLIND & VISUALLY HANDICAPPED

No. 43 February 1983

Mississippi Welcomes NAC

NAC's annual membership meetings were held in Jackson, Mississippi on November 6-7. Declaring November 1-7 "NAC Week in Jackson" and "NAC Week in Mississippi," Mayor Dale Danks and Governor William F. Winter extended a hearty southern welcome to NAC.

Major activities included the annual meeting of the corporate membership, a Board of Directors meeting, and meetings of various Commissions and Committees. Sam Negrin's report on AFB's "Operation Think NAC" and a panel discussion on "Consumer Participation in NAC" were featured events. Grant Mack addressed the guests and the new Distinguished Service Award was presented to Daniel D. Robinson and J. Max Woolly.

The Board of Directors voted unanimously to retain NAC's standards for dog guide schools. Last year the Board tabled action on this matter; significant initiative from dog guide users supported this year's decision.

The hosts for the meetings — Mississippi School for the Blind, Mississippi Vocational Rehabilitation for the Blind, Royal Maid Association for the Blind, Mississippi Association of Workers for the Blind, Mississippi Council of the Blind, and the Office of the President of Mississippi State University — provided abundant hospitality and excellent work in coordinating local activities and keeping the NAC members and guests comfortable and entertained. Equally memorable was the entertainment provided by the Mississippi State University Stage Band.

Next year's meetings will be held in Daytona Beach, Florida.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 2, 1982

I am pleased to extend congratulations to members and guests of the National Accreditation Council for Agencies Serving the Blind and Visually Handicapped as you celebrate your Fifteenth Anniversary at the Council's annual meeting.

Your organization's record of accomplishments in accrediting agencies and institutions which serve the blind and visually handicapped is, indeed, a special tribute to your leadership and dedicated sense of mission. As a result of your efforts, thousands of competent but otherwise handicapped individuals are now independent, productive wage earners and taxpayers who contribute to the economic well-being of our nation.

I am pleased to know that the Council has recently received its third successive certification by the Department of Education. You are to be commended for significant accomplishments over the past fifteen years.

You have my best wishes for a most successful conference. May you continue to serve the blind and visually handicapped with distinction.

Ronald Reagan

Errata

In the last issue of *The Standard-Bearer*, the names of three persons were omitted from the list of those serving on the national technical committee responsible for developing revised standards for rehabilitation center services. Arlene R. Gordon, New York Association for the Blind, New York City; Allen Jenkins, Orientation Center for the Blind, Albany, California; and Ruth Kaarlela, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, served on the committee. We apologize for our error and express our thanks to the committee.



Comments from the Executive Director

In this issue I'd like to discuss another of NAC's important publics — the workers in the field of blindness and visual impairment.

NAC serves these workers in a number of ways. NAC provides consistent standards which define levels of acceptable professional practice. Practitioners in all parts of the country use the standards as tools to develop, measure, and improve their programs.

The body of knowledge codified in the standards influences curricular decisions in college and university based professional training programs in such fields as orientation and mobility, rehabilitation teaching, and education of the visually handicapped. NAC also encourages increased professionalism by urging certification when appropriate and cooperating with responsible certifying bodies such as AAWB. Furthermore, NAC encourages agencies and schools to employ qualified workers and to provide them with nurturing working conditions.

NAC provides an effective method of peer review through the accreditation process. Voluntary submission to periodic evaluation by colleagues reflects the maturity of a profession. NAC also gives professionals opportunities to shape the field through participation in standard setting and accreditation. This helps workers to know their field better and to overcome the

tendency toward isolation and parochialism common in so widely dispersed a field.

Because NAC covers almost the entire range of professional practice in the field it also serves as an advance guard by codifying and disseminating new developments to a wide audience.

The relationship between the professional and the consumer is delicate. Because NAC works directly with and on behalf of each, NAC helps to strengthen the relationship. NAC encompasses virtually the whole field — and that is why the public can depend on the NAC logo as a sign that an agency or school meets high standards. Next time I'll talk more about the public and the ways that NAC serves this major constituency.

In other notes: there are changes in the NAC office. Cheryl Sandler has left NAC to become Director of Development and Special Projects for the National Conference on Soviet Jewry. Succeeding her is Patricia Witterschein, who comes to NAC from the Young Adult Institute and Workshop, a leading provider in New York of services to developmentally disabled persons. She earned her bachelor of arts degree from Rutgers University and took her master of arts degree at Columbia University.

—Richard W. Bleecker

AFB Sets Goals For New Year

In his speech to NAC's corporate membership in Jackson, Sam Negrin, associate director of the American Foundation for the Blind, announced that agencies in financial need applying before June 1983 could receive help from AFB in meeting the costs of initial accreditation. In addition, Mr. Negrin announced that AFB has offered a \$1 million matching grant towards an endowment for NAC.

Mr. Negrin's announcements capped off a year of public activities undertaken by AFB to promote NAC. The long standing and productive relationship between AFB and NAC was saluted in NAC's most recent Annual Report. But even since then, AFB's NAC-minded activities have continued apace.

Continued on page 5

Accreditation Update

At its December meeting, the Commission on Accreditation granted first-time accreditation to two organizations, bringing the total number of NAC accredited agencies and schools to 92. We welcome the Service Center for Visually Impaired, Flint, Michigan and the Center for the Blind, Phoenix, Arizona to membership.

Four NAC members, one serving children and three serving primarily adults, were reaccredited — Foundation for Blind Children, Scottsdale, Arizona; Industrial Home for the Blind, Brooklyn, New York; Oklahoma League for the Blind, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; and Services for the Blind Branch, Honolulu, Hawaii.

In other actions, the Commission extended accreditation of four organizations and postponed a decision on one applicant for reaccreditation until the June meeting.

Update on Standards

You can make an important contribution to NAC's work. The national standards advisory committee working on the standards for public relations and fund raising would like to hear from you. The committee has proposed a draft of revised standards which is available to interested consumers, professionals, and members of the public for national review.

Fred McDonald, chairman of the committee, explains the importance of the national review. "Our committee is very strong, but cannot operate in a vacuum. The national review puts the revised standards through a field test before they are approved for use in accreditation. In addition, this project is serving as the prototype for the second generation of standards revisions which will begin later this year. Our project is an important cornerstone in this larger effort, and it is particularly important that we receive significant feedback at this time."

In addition to Mr. McDonald, members of the advisory committee are Hamp Coley, United Way of America; Robert T. McLean, Loyola University; Sam Negrin, American Foundation for the Blind; Helen L. O'Rourke, Council of Better Business Bureaus, Inc.; Catherine Raphael-Wetzel, National Industries for the Blind; Donald H. Wedewer, Division of Blind Services, Department of Education, Florida; and Charles C. Woodcock, Perkins School for the Blind.

You can order your copy of the national review draft now. Send us your suggestions by June 1, 1983. Copies are available from the NAC office for \$1.50 each. Please specify whether you'd like the print, braille, or recorded edition. Print copies of the current standards for public relations and fund raising are available for \$2.00.

In other standards developments, Owen R. Davison, chairman of the Commission on Standards, has announced that the project to revise NAC's Standards for Workshop Services has been delayed until further notice. The decision was made because of uncertainties engendered by current proposals to revise the Fair Labor Standards Act regulations and to amend the Javits-Wagner-O-Day Act.



Peter W. Connelly

Rochester Association Gets Results — With NAC's Help

What happens to an agency which does not become accredited the first time around? The Rochester Association for the Blind discovered that the rigorous process of accreditation leads to improved services for blind and visually handicapped people. "NAC insisted that we focus on results, not rhetoric," says Peter W. Connelly, who is active on the boards of both the Rochester Association and NAC.

The Association sought accreditation after a number of years of effort on its part to become more responsive to the needs of consumers. In 1971, the Association's board was petitioned by a local consumer group to improve its services. A period of rapid change began. Though facilities were expanded, and new programs developed, these improvements resulted in confusion and financial instability within the organization.

In 1975 the agency began the self-study process as preparation for accreditation by NAC. Mr. Connelly recalls: "it was an important action and required a commitment from the staff and board to spend the time necessary to do a good self-assessment. It also took a certain amount of courage to agree to having a team of people from outside the agency take a close look at what we were doing."

The NAC on-site review team was quick to see the dedication and spirit of enthusiasm exhibited by the agency's board and staff. The Association

Continued on page 4



Rochester *continued from page 3*

had a number of blind and visually handicapped persons on the board, a new physical facility, a comprehensive volunteer program, and ambitious and innovative service objectives. But it also was serving many people with disabilities other than blindness or visual impairment, and consequently was not clearly geared to the needs of blind and visually handicapped persons. And it was over-extended and in a financially precarious situation.

The NAC on-site review team recognized the potential of the Association and made recommendations which would guide the organization in its effort to define and achieve its goals and objectives. According to Mr. Connelly, "we had 50 plus severe recommendations. NAC took away the lamp post we were leaning against to hold us up." The organization did not fall down; but it was not accredited right away. NAC's Commission on Accreditation gave it a period of time to respond to the recommendations. Which it did. After much hard work, the Association was accredited the following year.

The Rochester Association was reaccredited in 1982. This time the team found it to be in excellent shape — most of the 1975 recommendations had been implemented. In Mr. Connelly's words, "the number of persons served had increased from 300 to 1,000; the percentage who were blind or visually handicapped had increased from 40% to 95%, which qualified us for affiliation with National Industries for the Blind. Business improved, wages for blind production workers doubled, and placements in competitive industry rose 300 percent. Where we once had annual operating deficits, we began to achieve year end surpluses and to increase our endowment."

Accreditation produces more than an analytical exercise, more than a certificate to hang on a wall. Consumers, professionals, administrators, volunteers, the community, the funding sources — all benefit. Because there is always growth and change, there is always need to monitor and shape performance. Peter Connelly sums up the conviction of the Association: "Accreditation isn't some magic formula for improvement but rather an excellent tool that any agency can use to identify weakness based on established standards. Every agency has areas that can be improved. If an agency is afraid to admit that, or is unwilling to take the time to evaluate itself with the intention of constantly improving its services, then that agency is doing a disservice to the people it serves."

NAC Election Notes

At the board of directors meeting on November 7 in Jackson, the entire slate of candidates for officers was elected unanimously. Elected to serve for one year terms are: Morton Pepper, first vice-president; Huntington Harris, second vice-president; Joseph E. Champagne, third vice-president; Evelyn G. Ullmann, secretary; and Peter W. Connelly, treasurer. Nancy W. Bryant and LeRoy F. Saunders will serve as members-at-large of the executive committee.

Board of directors elections were held at the meeting of the corporate membership on November 6. Six new members were elected: W. Paul Jones, University of Nevada; Lynn Lilienthal, Reston, Virginia; Helen G. Levine, National Braille Association; Kathleen Megivern, American Association of Workers for the Blind; Patricia Price, Visually Impaired Secretarial Transcribers Association; and Kent T. Wardell, California State University, Los Angeles. Re-elected for second three year terms were six incumbents: Mr. Connelly, Mr. Saunders, Mrs. Ullman, Vernon Metcalf, Ellsworth L. Sharpe, and Richard G. Umsted.

The six members rotating off the board are: Raymond A. Kempf, Joseph J. Larkin, Robert T. McLean, Oral O. Miller, Daniel D. Robinson, and Dean W. Tuttle. Messrs. Kempf, Larkin, McLean, and Miller were presented with NAC Service Awards. Messrs. Robinson and Tuttle are previous recipients of that award.

ACB Support Swells

Four organizations committed to improved services for blind and visually handicapped people have joined NAC as Sponsors and Supporters recently. This brings the total number of Sponsors and Supporters to 53.

NAC's newest Sponsor is the Teubert Foundation, located in West Virginia. In addition, three affiliates of the American Council of the Blind have become NAC Supporters: Indiana Council of the Blind, Kentucky Council of the Blind, and Mountain State Council of the Blind (West Virginia). Half of NAC's 36 Supporting members and four of its Sponsors are ACB affiliates.

Consumer Perspective Highlights Meeting

Four leaders in the consumer movement discussed participation by blind persons in NAC at a Saturday afternoon panel discussion during the annual meetings in Jackson.

Barbara Nelson, American Council of the Blind, discussed what could be accomplished in the field when consumers and workers cooperate. She announced that the South Dakota affiliate of American Council of the Blind (a NAC supporter) will pay half the expense of the forthcoming on-site review of the South Dakota Division of Services to the Visually Impaired, which has applied for reaccreditation by NAC.

Ellsworth (Skip) Sharpe, Blinded Veterans Association President, urged veterans to become more vocal in their support of quality services through accreditation. He emphasized the need for better evaluation of the Veterans Administration rehabilitation program for the blind.

Audrey Hebner, president of the Sacramento Society for the Blind, discussed the increased opportunities for consumer participation on the boards of NAC-accredited agencies and schools. She urged consumers to use NAC as a source of information about which organizations for the blind have qualified for accreditation; these, she indicated, deserved consumer's confidence and support.

Scott Marshall, American Council of the Blind, and a member of NAC's Commission on Accreditation, provided insight into the workings of the Commission. He described the care and procedural safeguards used by the Commission to insure that its decisions are just and fair. Any process is only as good as the people who participate in it, he argued. "I think," he concluded, "that we all have to stand up and be counted for accreditation."

AFB Sets Goals *continued from page 2*

The AFB-sponsored Helen Keller Seminar, held on October 1982, featured as its theme "Standards and Models of Excellence." Otis H. Stephens, NAC president, and Owen R. Davison, chairman of NAC's Commission on Standards, were featured speakers. Louis H. Rives, member of COMSTAC and former NAC president, was one of the two recipients of the Migel Medal, AFB's highest honor.

A major event at the Seminar was the presentation to Arthur L. Brandon of the NAC Award. Dr. Brandon was the chairman of COMSTAC and NAC's first president. The award, an engraved piece of Steuben glass, was presented to him by Daniel D. Robinson, a COMSTAC colleague and also a former NAC president. Dr. Stephens explained the significance of the award. In his moving acceptance remarks, Dr. Brandon recalled the early days of COMSTAC and the original vision that continues to guide those who work for quality services in the blindness field.

AFB expects to continue its activities on behalf of the accreditation movement. Perhaps its most significant effort as a NAC Sponsor is its commitment to work for needed linkage of specific economic benefits to the achievement of NAC accreditation.

New NAC Award to Robinson and Woolly

Otis H. Stephens, NAC's President, presented the newly-established Distinguished Service Award to Daniel D. Robinson and J. Max Woolly. The presentation was a highlight of the annual banquet held during the Annual Meetings in Jackson, Mississippi.

The Distinguished Service Award is given "in grateful recognition of sustained commitment to standards and accreditation, outstanding leadership in the field of work with the blind, and devoted service to blind and visually handicapped Americans." It honors the service of NAC Service Award recipients whose volunteer contributions have extended far beyond the work they did to earn that award.

Daniel D. Robinson is the first person to have served a total of four three-year terms on NAC's Board. He has been chairman of the Finance Committee, Long Range Planning Committee, and Program Support Committee.

J. Max Woolly has served on the Executive Committee, Commission on Standards, and the Commission on Advancement of Standards. He has served on more on-site review teams than any other volunteer.

continued on page 8



Look For This Symbol
of Quality

List of Accredited Members

as of December 31, 1982

Accreditation by NAC signifies that an agency or school for the blind meets nationally accepted standards for quality services, responsible management, and public accountability.

Two dates appear for each agency or school: the year when accreditation was first achieved, and the year through which accreditation is awarded.

This list of accredited members assists blind and visually handicapped people to select quality services. And it assists the public—which supports these services through contributions and taxes—to identify agencies and schools that are demonstrating their effectiveness and accountability.

ALABAMA

Alabama School for the Blind; Talladega
Ronald L. Garrett, Principal (78-85)

Department of Adult Blind and Deaf of the Alabama
Institute for Deaf and Blind; Talladega
Hank Baud, Director (77-83)

ARIZONA

Center for the Blind; Phoenix
Allen Woody, Executive Director (82-86)

Services for the Blind Section; Phoenix
K. Edward House, Manager (71-86)

Foundation for Blind Children; Scottsdale
John H. Maxson, Executive Director (78-88)

Department for the Visually Handicapped, Arizona State
School for the Deaf and the Blind; Tucson
Ralph L. Hoag, Superintendent (72-87)

Tucson Association for the Blind; Tucson
Kenneth W. Gavitt, Executive Director (80-85)

Yuma Center for the Visually Impaired; Yuma
Jim J. Mullin, Director (81-84)

ARKANSAS

Arkansas Enterprises for the Blind; Little Rock
James Cordell, Executive Director (69-84)

Arkansas School for the Blind; Little Rock
Hugh A. Pace, Superintendent (69-84)

Arkansas State Office for the Blind and Visually
Impaired; Little Rock
Richard Seifert, Administrator (76-86)

CALIFORNIA

Sacramento Society for the Blind; Sacramento
Thomas C. Ryan, Executive Director (73-83)

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind
Charles A. Fegan, Executive Director (70-83)

FLORIDA

Conklin Center for Multihandicapped Blind;
Daytona Beach
Edward F. McCoy, Executive Director (81-83)

Florida Association of Workers for the Blind; Miami
Vernon Metcalf, Executive Director (78-83)

Department for the Blind, Florida School for the Deaf
and the Blind; St. Augustine
Robert T. Dawson, President (78-83)

Florida Division of Blind Services; Tallahassee
Donald H. Wedewer, Director (74-84)

Tampa Lighthouse for the Blind; Tampa
C. E. Olstrom, Executive Director (76-87)

Lighthouse for the Blind of the Palm Beaches;
West Palm Beach
William S. Thompson, Executive Director (80-85)

GEORGIA

Atlanta Area Services for the Blind; Atlanta
Carolyn Kokenge, Executive Director (72-83)

Georgia Industries for the Blind; Bainbridge
Clayton Penhallegon, Executive Director (78-83)

Georgia Academy for the Blind; Macon
Richard E. Hyer, Jr., Superintendent (78-83)

HAWAII

Services for the Blind Branch; Honolulu
Beatrice Higuchi, Administrator (72-84)

ILLINOIS

Chicago Lighthouse for the Blind; Chicago
Milton Samuelson, Executive Director (71-86)

Community Services for the Visually Handicapped;
Chicago
Peter R. Paul, Superintendent (77-83)

Illinois Visually Handicapped Institute; Chicago
Thomas J. Murphy, Superintendent (75-83)

Illinois School for the Visually Impaired; Jacksonville
Richard G. Umsted, Superintendent (75-85)

Hadley School for the Blind; Winnetka
Robert J. Winn, President (70-85)

IOWA

Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School; Vinton
Richard M. DeMott, Superintendent (71-86)

KANSAS

Kansas Division of Services for the Blind; Topeka
Richard A. Schutz, Director (71-83)

LOUISIANA

Louisiana Association for the Blind; Shreveport
DeWayne Robertson, Executive Director (70-83)

MAINE

Division of Eye Care; Augusta
Paul E. Rourke, Director (70-85)

Maine Center for the Blind; Portland Robert J. Crouse, Executive Director	(81-84)	Jewish Guild for the Blind; New York John F. Heimerdinger, Executive Director	(72-87)
MARYLAND		New York Association for the Blind; New York Wesley D. Sprague, Executive Director	(70-85)
Maryland School for the Blind; Baltimore Richard L. Welsh, Superintendent	(69-85)	Recording for the Blind; New York Stuart Carothers, Executive Director	(72-83)
MASSACHUSETTS		Association for the Blind of Rochester and Monroe County; Rochester Stanley J. Grenn, Executive Director	(76-85)
Perkins School for the Blind; Watertown Charles C. Woodcock, Director	(70-86)	Syracuse Association of Workers for the Blind; Syracuse Milton Rosenblum, Executive Director	(71-84)
MICHIGAN		Central Association for the Blind; Utica Donald D. LoGuidice, Executive Director	(77-84)
Greater Detroit Society for the Blind; Detroit Carroll Jackson, Executive Director	(70-86)	Guiding Eyes for the Blind; Yorktown Heights Donald Z. Kauth, Executive Director	(74-83)
Service Center for Visually Impaired; Flint Robert J. Esposito, Executive Director	(82-85)	NORTH CAROLINA	
Association for the Blind and for Sight Conservation; Grand Rapids William J. Leeder, Executive Vice President	(79-84)	Governor Morehead School; Raleigh Samuel J. Cole, Superintendent	(72-87)
Michigan School for the Blind; Lansing A. Charles Weir, Principal	(70-86)	NORTH DAKOTA	
MINNESOTA		North Dakota School for the Blind; Grand Forks Charles R. Borchert, Superintendent	(80-85)
Minneapolis Society for the Blind; Minneapolis Melvin E. Saterbak, President	(70-86)	OHIO	
MISSISSIPPI		Cincinnati Association for the Blind; Cincinnati Milton A. Jahoda, Executive Director	(69-85)
Royal Maid Association for the Blind; Hazlehurst John L. Granger, Vice President	(71-83)	Clovernook Home and School for the Blind; Cincinnati Gerald W. Mundy, Executive Director	(76-85)
Mississippi School for the Blind; Jackson R. C. Benton, Superintendent	(80-83)	Cleveland Society for the Blind; Cleveland Cleo B. Dolan, Executive Director	(68-85)
Vocational Rehabilitation for the Blind; Jackson J. Elton Moore, Director	(73-83)	Ohio State School for the Blind; Columbus Dennis L. Holmes, Superintendent	(69-85)
MISSOURI		Center for the Visually Impaired; Elyria Terry R. Lugenbeal, Executive Director	(81-84)
Kansas City Association for the Blind; Kansas City Thomas Healy, Executive Director	(71-84)	Vision Center of Central Ohio; Columbus Richard Oestreich, Executive Director	(75-84)
NEW HAMPSHIRE		Toledo Society for the Blind; Toledo Barry A. McEwen, Executive Director	(78-83)
New Hampshire Association for the Blind; Concord Gale N. Stickler, Executive Director	(73-84)	OKLAHOMA	
NEW JERSEY		Parkview School; Muskogee Ronald M. Casey, Superintendent	(70-85)
St. Joseph's School for the Blind; Jersey City Sr. Mary Kuiken, CSJ, Administrator	(72-83)	Division of Visual Services; Oklahoma City Travis Harris, Administrative Assistant	(78-83)
NEW MEXICO		Oklahoma League for the Blind; Oklahoma City LeRoy F. Saunders, Executive Director	(78-85)
New Mexico School for the Visually Handicapped; Alamogordo Jerry Watkins, Superintendent	(79-84)	PENNSYLVANIA	
NEW YORK		Lancaster County Branch, Pennsylvania Association for the Blind; Lancaster Marion R. Campbell, Executive Director	(73-83)
Northeastern Association of the Blind at Albany; Albany Michael B. Freedman, Executive Director	(75-86)	Pittsburgh Branch, Pennsylvania Association for the Blind; Pittsburgh Dennis J. Huber, Executive Director	(70-85)
Blind Work Association; Binghamton Conrad Range, Managing Director	(71-83)		
IHB Services for the Blind; Brooklyn Joseph J. Larkin, Executive Director	(71-84)		
New York Institute for the Education of the Blind; Bronx Nancy W. Bryant, Director	(78-83)		
Blind Association of Western New York; Buffalo Michael L. Comini, Executive Director	(73-84)		
Center for Independent Living; New York Douglas E. Inkster, Executive Director	(80-85)		

Continued →



List of Accredited Members, *continued*

PUERTO RICO

Loaiza Cordero Institute for Blind Children; Santurce
Celsa C. Alonso, Director (81-83)

RHODE ISLAND

Rhode Island Association for the Blind; Providence
Robert H. Carolan, Executive Director (68-85)

Rhode Island State Services for the Blind and
Visually Impaired; Providence
E. Lyman D'Andrea, Administrator (70-86)

SOUTH DAKOTA

South Dakota School for the Visually Handicapped;
Aberdeen
Charles B. Boyer, Superintendent (80-84)

Division of Services to the Visually Impaired; Pierre
David Vogel, Director (72-83)

TENNESSEE

Tennessee School for the Blind; Donelson
Jack Rumbaugh, Superintendent (70-85)

Volunteer Blind Industries; Morristown
J. C. Austin, Executive Director (79-83)

TEXAS

Texas School for the Blind; Austin
William H. Miller, Executive Director (82-84)

Travis Association for the Blind, Austin
Fred M. Weber, Director (82-84)

Dallas Lighthouse for the Blind; Dallas
Austin G. Scott, President (70-85)

Dallas Services for Visually Impaired Children; Dallas
Chris Tompkins, Executive Director (70-85)

Lighthouse for the Blind of Houston; Houston
Gibson M. DuTerroil, President (69-86)

VIRGINIA

Virginia Department for the Visually Handicapped;
Richmond
William T. Coppage, Director (69-84)

WASHINGTON

Lighthouse for the Blind; Seattle
George Jacobson, Executive Director (71-87)

WEST VIRGINIA

West Virginia School for the Blind; Romney
Jack W. Brady, Superintendent (76-85)

WISCONSIN

Visually Impaired Persons Department, Milwaukee
Area Technical College; Milwaukee
George Sippl, Supervisor (82-87)

Wisconsin School for the Visually Handicapped;
Janesville
William H. English, Superintendent (73-83)

Industries for the Blind; Milwaukee
Claude W. Hirsch, Executive Vice President (78-83)

Tax Break

During the winter, thoughts turn to the promises of spring — birds and flowers and income taxes. Start saving on your 1983 taxes by making a gift to NAC now.

New NAC Award *continued from page 5*

In his remarks, Dr. Stephens noted that "there is no way to calculate the value to NAC and to quality services for blind Americans of the volunteer contributions made over the years by Daniel D. Robinson and J. Max Woolly."

NATIONAL ACCREDITATION COUNCIL for Agencies Serving the Blind and Visually Handicapped

79 Madison Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10016



The Standard-Bearer



NATIONAL ACCREDITATION COUNCIL
FOR AGENCIES SERVING THE BLIND & VISUALLY HANDICAPPED

No. 44 May 1983

The Long Road: Loaiza Cordero Institute

Achievement of NAC accreditation is a major accomplishment. Months, often years of hard work may precede the presentation of an organization for the blind's application to the Commission on Accreditation. And yet more months or years may precede the actual awarding of accreditation itself. Accreditation begins with the intention of the school or agency to commit itself to quality services, sound management, and public accountability. But accreditation is not awarded for good intentions. And so comes the long, hard work of self-study and of bringing the organization into compliance with NAC standards.

This can require persistence and commitment. In the case of the Loaiza Cordero Institute for Blind Children in Santurce, Puerto Rico, it took eleven years to achieve NAC accreditation. Under the tireless leadership of Celsa Alonso, the school worked to improve its facilities, services, and management.

"Achievement of accreditation was an important goal," says Celsa Alonso, who recently retired as director of the school. "I would not have been able to retire happily had the school not yet achieved accreditation."

The Institute, the only residential school for the blind in Puerto Rico, was founded in 1919 and has been under the management of the Division of Public Welfare since 1943. In 1968 the school submitted its initial application for accreditation. This was the first school application received by NAC. The progress of the ensuing self-study was hampered by unique problems. The self-study material had to be translated into Spanish so that it could be used by the school personnel. In addition, the school embarked on a major building program which interrupted the self-study. By the time it could be resumed, there had been significant changes in the

Continued on page 4

"From Now On . . ." ACB Moves Forward

Grant Mack, president of the American Council of the Blind, has announced a bold new direction for ACB. "From now on," he asserted recently, "the ACB will use all its power to encourage every agency and school for the blind to seek accreditation."

Mr. Mack cited as the motive for the policy shift the failure of the previous "low-key" approach to encourage more than one-fourth of the agencies and schools in the United States to achieve accreditation. Mr. Mack, who is also a NAC Board member, commented: "It is unconscionable that three-fourths of those organizations which purport to be the source of education, training, and rehabilitation of blind people should ignore seeking accreditation."

Continued on page 2

Competition From CARF

The Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities decided in December 1982 to consider applications from agencies and schools that specialize in serving blind and visually handicapped persons. This action places CARF in direct competition with NAC for the first time.

Subsequently the Cleveland Society for the Blind had four of its programs accredited by CARF and notified NAC of its withdrawal from accredited status and membership.

CARF's action ruptures its longstanding accord with NAC. Designed to foster a "cooperative and beneficial working relationship," the accord included a provision that "in their operations the organizations do not become duplicative or competitive."

Continued on page 3



Grant Mack

ACB Moves Forward

continued from page 1

The ACB president sees one of his important goals as bringing NAC and consumers closer together. Under his direction, ACB sent NAC's fiscal year 1982 Annual Report, in flexible disc form, to about 10,000 print-handicapped readers throughout the country. In his accompanying message, Mr. Mack urges blind and visually handicapped persons to stress the importance of NAC accreditation with local agencies and schools. The strengthening of NAC-ACB ties is further represented in the programs on accreditation that have been scheduled for the ACB convention later this year and in ACB's hosting of the next Commission on Accreditation meeting. In yet another gesture of tangible support, ACB has increased its financial support for NAC well above its Sponsorship dues.

"NAC has shown itself to be effective as well as dramatically responsive to the needs of consumers," says Grant Mack. "We are pleased to be a NAC Sponsor; strengthened ties between NAC and ACB will result in better lives for many, many people."

Comments From The Executive Director

In this issue of *The Standard-Bearer* we turn to the third of our constituent groups—the general public. Members of the general public serve on NAC's Board, Commissions, and committees, thus helping to set policy and direction for the organization. They contribute expertise and money to further the work that NAC does. Organizations concerned with the public interest such as The National Information Bureau and the Council of Better Business Bureaus and the U.S. Department of Education periodically review NAC as a way of helping us to maintain the high standards we set for ourselves. The involvement of the general public in guiding and monitoring NAC is consistently high and serves as a model for other accrediting agencies.

It is clear that NAC values public participation highly. But why should the general public care so much about the work of a specialized accreditation agency? In the answer to this question lies one of the important reasons for NAC's existence. By providing standards for both public and private institutions serving blind and visually handicapped persons, NAC helps to assure quality, consistency, efficiency, and accountability in service delivery.

Anyone who pays taxes or contributes to such institutions can look to the NAC logo for assurance that their dollars are spent honestly and wisely.

It therefore makes good sense for the general public to care about NAC. In a population growing steadily older, many people become visually impaired each year. From today's public comes tomorrow's consumer. The public interest and NAC's interest are indeed similar.

There are two items with which I would like to conclude my remarks. Our project to revise Standards for Workshop Services has been suspended. Revision of these standards will now take place during a later phase of the second generation of standards revision.

Finally, we welcome Ruth Westman to the NAC office. Our newest staff associate received her B.B.A. from the University of Pittsburgh and her M.A. from Trenton State College. Prior to joining NAC, she was senior vocational evaluator at the Rockland County Center for the Physically Handicapped, in downstate New York.

—Richard W. Bleecker



Sponsors and Supporters are national, state, and local organizations which help NAC improve services to blind and visually handicapped Americans by promoting and supporting NAC. These organizations, because their activities are not encompassed by the NAC standards, are not eligible to seek accreditation and are not evaluated by NAC. Those listed below in bold face type have joined since last May.

SUPPORTING MEMBERS

American Council of the Blind of Indiana, ACB
American Council of the Blind of New Jersey, ACB
American Council of the Blind of New York State, ACB
American Council of the Blind of South Carolina, ACB
Arizona Association of Workers With the Blind, AAWB
Arkansas Chapter, AAWB
Arkansas Council of the Blind, ACB
Blinded Veterans Association, New York
Delta Gamma Foundation
Department of Blind Rehabilitation, Western Michigan University
Department of Rehabilitation and Special Education,
University of Arkansas at Little Rock
Florida Council of the Blind, ACB
Georgia Chapter, AAWB
Georgia Federation of the Blind, ACB
Gopher State Blind Associates, Minnesota, ACB
Hartford Graduate Center
Helen Keller International
Illinois Association of Workers for the Blind, AAWB
Illinois Chapter, AEVH
Illinois Federation of the Blind, ACB
Iowa Council of the Blind, ACB
Kentucky Council of the Blind, ACB
Louisiana Council of the Blind, ACB
Matilda Ziegler Magazine for the Blind
Michigan Association of the Blind, ACB
Minnesota Chapter, AAWB
Mississippi Association of Workers for the Blind, AAWB
Mississippi Council of the Blind, ACB
Mississippi State University
Mountain State Council of the Blind, ACB
National Society to Prevent Blindness
New York State Association of Workers for the Blind, AAWB
Oklahoma Chapter, AAWB
Oklahoma Council of the Blind, ACB
Pennsylvania Council of the Blind, ACB
South Dakota Association for the Blind, ACB
Wisconsin Chapter, AAWB

Continued on page 6

The Long Road

continued from page 1

school's staff and program as well as in NAC's standards and self-study and evaluation guides. The process had to start again.

The Institute received considerable encouragement from the American Foundation for the Blind during the self-study years. The task facing the consultants was subtle — not only did they need to assist the school in its preparation, they needed to do so fully sensitive to Puerto Rico's cultural milieu. This also applied to NAC and meant, for example, that NAC's on-site review team had to have sufficient knowledge of and sensitivity to the differences between American and Puerto Rican culture to be able to fully comprehend the meaning of the program to be examined.

In 1981 the on-site review was conducted. The NAC team found that the Institute had a remarkably committed staff and a clear plan to upgrade programs and services at the school. However, the Commission on Accreditation decided that despite the Institute's dedication to its mission and its improved facilities, the school did not meet the NAC standards fully enough to qualify. In June 1981 the Commission postponed action on the application for six months, to give the school time to come into compliance.

The school used the on-site review report and the Commission's postponement as a blueprint. At the end of the six months it was able to report very significant progress. For example, eleven of the team's recommendations involving further improvements to the physical facilities had been implemented or were in the process of implementation. In December 1981, the School was awarded first-time accreditation.

"The benefits of our accreditation experience have been many," explains Celsa Alonso. "The whole island became involved and supported us in what we were trying to do." The Lions and Rotary Clubs provided funds to establish a multi-media center. Faculty from the University of Puerto Rico assisted in developing programs for curriculum planning and evaluation. In addition, with the cooperation of the Association of Optometrists of Puerto Rico and the School of Optometry of the Inter-American University, the first steps towards the establishment of a low vision clinic at the school were taken.

The fulfillment of Celsa Alonso's dream has been recognized throughout the island. For her hard work and unflagging determination, for her significant contribution to the lives of blind and visually



*Student Presents Gift to
Former Loaiza Cordero Institute Director
Celsa Alonso*

handicapped children, in 1982 she was named Puerto Rico's "Outstanding Woman of the Year." Governor Carlos Romero Barcelo wrote on the occasion of her retirement, "Please accept the gratitude of all the Puerto Rican people for the love and attention you have brought to so many through your important humanitarian work."

NAC Welcomes New Support

This edition of *The Standard-Bearer* includes our current list of Sponsors and Supporters. During the past year, eight organizations publicly expressed their dedication to quality services for blind and visually handicapped people nationwide.

NAC is pleased to welcome its three newest Supporting members: American Council of the Blind of New Jersey; Department of Blind Rehabilitation, Western Michigan University; and the Florida Council of the Blind. The total number of Sponsors and Supporters is now 53.

NAC Seeks New President, Board Members

This is a presidential election year for NAC. Dr. Otis H. Stephens' term of office will end in November.

In addition to the president, NAC will elect a full slate of officers and eleven members of the Board of Directors. Armand P. Leco and Morton Pepper have served two consecutive terms of three years each and will rotate off the Board. Directors Delbert K. Aman, Jack W. Birch, Joseph E. Champagne, Adrian J. DeBlaey, James S. Jeffers, Jerry R. Monroe, Gerald W. Mundy, Therese A. Snyder, and McAllister C. Upshaw are eligible for consideration for election to a second term.

Morton Pepper, chairman of NAC's nominations committee, announces a call for suggestions of qualified candidates to fill these positions. The committee invites you to suggest professionals, consumers, and members of the public with diverse expertise and backgrounds who could appropriately serve NAC. NAC's Board is balanced and diverse. Its Bylaws provide that at least one-third of the directors shall be recommended by or be members of national organizations of the blind. The Board's functions include policy-making, program planning and evaluation, and financial stewardship. The officers and other members of the executive committee have responsibility for management and control of NAC's activities in between meetings of the Board.

Candidates for president should possess outstanding leadership qualities and recognized stature within the accreditation field.

The nominations committee will evaluate the qualifications of each person suggested and prepare a slate of Board candidates for consideration by the corporate membership when it meets in Daytona Beach on November 5. The committee will present its slate of executive committee candidates to the Board the following day.

Before you submit a name, ask yourself the following questions: Does the person you want to nominate have knowledge of and interest in the blindness field? Does the person understand and support NAC's goals? How much time and energy will the person contribute? Does the person have the stature and experience to help NAC achieve its objectives? How can the person help NAC raise and manage funds? Have you stimulated this person's interest in serving NAC?

Letters of nomination, which should include biographical information, will be accepted by Mr. Pepper at the NAC office through August 15.

NAC to Meet in Daytona Beach

NAC's 1983 Annual Membership and Board Meetings will be held the weekend of November 5-6 at the Holiday Inn Surfside in Daytona Beach, Florida. Co-hosting the meetings are six NAC-accredited organizations: Conklin Center for Multi-handicapped Blind; Florida Association of Workers for the Blind; Florida Division of Blind Services; Department for the Blind, Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind; Lighthouse for the Blind of the Palm Beaches; Tampa Lighthouse for the Blind, and one NAC Supporter: Florida Council of the Blind.

The membership meeting is scheduled for 1:30—4:30 p.m. on November 5, followed by a reception and banquet beginning at 5:30 p.m. The next day, the Board of Directors will meet from 9:00 a.m. until noon. These events are open to the public.

Competition From CARF

continued from page 1

The action undermines the accepted premises held since COMSTAC that agencies and schools for the blind should have their own specialized standards and accrediting process and that all of an organization's administrative and service programs should be included in that process. The CARF decision also offends the principle that blind or visually handicapped persons should participate significantly in standard-setting and accreditation activities.

CARF's decision may have serious consequences for NAC and the entire blindness system, according to President Otis H. Stephens. Commenting on these new developments, he remarked: "Competition between essentially different kinds of accrediting agencies goes against established professional and ethical practice. The entire blindness field should be aware of the seriousness of this threat. What we have worked so hard to achieve must not come undone."

On a brighter note, Dr. Stephens continued: "I am pleased with the support NAC has received from leaders in the field. I am convinced that the field will pull together to protect its own standards and accreditation system. CARF simply cannot provide the comprehensive evaluations of agencies and schools required in this complex field."

continued from page 5

SPONSORING MEMBERS

Affiliated Leadership League of and for the Blind of America
American Association of Workers for the Blind (AAWB)
American Council of the Blind (ACB)
American Foundation for the Blind
Association for Education of the Visually Handicapped (AEVH)
Association of Rehabilitation Teachers
Council of Executives of American Residential Schools
for the Visually Handicapped
Council of Rehabilitation Specialists, ACB
**Division for the Visually Handicapped, Council for
Exceptional Children.**
General Council of Workshops for the Blind
Guide Dog Users, ACB
International Services for the Blind
National Braille Association
National Industries for the Blind
United States Association for Blind Athletes
Visually Impaired Secretarial Transcribers Association, ACB

Tax Corner

If you've never made a charitable contribution to NAC, now is a good time to start — you can help blind and visually handicapped Americans and help yourself at the same time. And if you have contributed before, you have even more reason to renew your commitment to NAC.

Why? Well, in the past, only itemizers could reap tax benefits from their charitable contributions. This is no longer the case. You can now deduct up to \$25 of your contributions. This ceiling gradually increases through 1986, when 100 percent of your contributions will be deductible.

This important change in the tax law will benefit all philanthropic Americans, not just those who itemize their returns. We hope you'll take advantage of this in 1983 by making a contribution to NAC.

NATIONAL ACCREDITATION COUNCIL
for Agencies Serving the Blind and Visually Handicapped

79 Madison Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10016



Dr. Susan Jay Spungin
American Foundation for the Blind
15 West 16th St.
New York, NY 10011

NONPROFIT ORG.



The Standard- Bearer

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**NATIONAL ACCREDITATION COUNCIL
FOR AGENCIES SERVING THE BLIND & VISUALLY HANDICAPPED**

No. 46 February 1984

Hartenstine Named Director

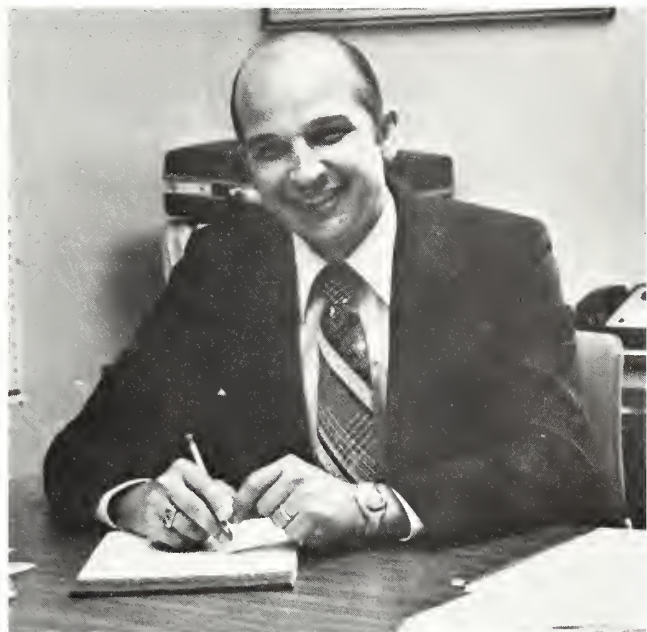
Dennis L. Hartenstine, executive director of the National Retinitis Pigmentosa Foundation Fighting Blindness since 1973, has been appointed NAC's executive director, succeeding Richard W. Bleecker. The announcement was made by NAC's President James D. McComas. Mr. Hartenstine will assume his post on March 12, 1984. The appointment was made after an extensive national search.

Said Mr. Hartenstine of his appointment, "I'm excited about NAC and its mission. NAC is an excellent organization. I look forward to implementing a program through which accreditation becomes synonymous with quality services for blind and visually impaired persons. There are many ways we can work to accomplish our goals. I want NAC to work closely with member agencies to help them derive maximum benefit from their accredited status. NAC has a committed board and staff. We have the resources, even in a small organization, to make a big impact."

As the first executive director of the Foundation, a national eye research, public education, and human services organization, he was responsible for establishing the basis for the strong funding mechanism that has guaranteed its research efforts. During his 11 year tenure the Foundation grew from 15 to over 60 affiliates in the United States and has increased its annual income from \$225,000 to over \$2,000,000.

Prior to 1973 Mr. Hartenstine was employed by the Philadelphia Easter Seal Society for Crippled Children and Adults, holding various positions in fund raising, administration, and program services during his six years with the organization. Included in his experience with the Easter Seal Society was a volunteer position as standards chairman for the American Camping Association—Eastern Pennsylvania.

Continued on page 3



Dennis L. Hartenstine

McComas New President; Board, Officers Elected

During elections held at NAC's annual Board of Directors' meeting, James D. McComas, President, Mississippi State University, was elected to a two year term as NAC President. Dr. McComas has been a member of NAC's Commission on Accreditation since 1978 and served as chairman from 1981-1983. Before becoming Mississippi State University's President in 1976, Dr. McComas served as Dean of the College of Education of the University of Tennessee. He has served on a number of national accrediting boards and committees. Dr. McComas lives with his wife and two children in Mississippi State, Mississippi.

Continued on page 7



Comments from the Acting Executive Director

It is a pleasure to write these comments for the first issue of *The Standard-Bearer* of 1984. I am honored to be serving NAC as acting executive director during the interim between the directorships of Richard W. Bleecker and Dennis L. Hartenstine. Richard Bleecker is a strong and courageous leader who, in his time at NAC, significantly strengthened our management and guided the expansion of our programs. His passionate dedication and his high standards have affected me deeply, professionally and personally.

In this issue I would like to talk about NAC's position in the field from what I believe is a unique perspective. I am a blind person who has been served by the blindness system. I know what impact the quality of services can have on the quality of life. I have seen how NAC's recommendations can help agencies and schools to improve. I have worked at NAC for 8 years, and can look at the field as a whole. I know what accreditation can and cannot do. I have seen remarkable improvements in services that have come about as a result of the accreditation process. I have seen dramatic changes in the role consumers play in the affairs of the organizations that serve them. Accreditation is a dynamic process. It is not something NAC *does to* agencies and schools; rather, it is something that consumers, professionals, and concerned community members *do together*. I see NAC's greatest function as that of facilitator—we serve as a catalyst for constructive change.

Accreditation is sometimes misunderstood; for example, it is perceived as too costly or too threatening. Perhaps the bewilderment some feel about accreditation can be seen as a form of growing pains. It is the mark of a mature field that it insist on peer review. As the field becomes more secure in its identity, accreditation will most likely be met with greater understanding and welcomed as an integral aspect of professional accountability.

But NAC and blind people cannot wait indefinitely for the field to mature fully. Too many agencies and schools need the services that NAC provides today, need to go through self-study and external review now in order to assure that blind and visually handicapped Americans receive services which are sound and well-managed.

Still, there is resistance. Some organizations cite cost as a reason for avoiding accreditation. We are pleased that the American Foundation for the Blind

and the National Industries for the Blind are offering funds to reimburse the costs of accreditation. AFB is providing grants to private organizations in financial need seeking first time accreditation. NIB is reimbursing the costs of its affiliated organizations. It is already clear that we will have a large number of new applications for accreditation this year; AFB and NIB have played major roles in bringing this about.

Another way of overcoming resistance to accreditation is to provide incentives and benefits sufficient to motivate participation by agencies and schools. Experience in the accreditation field has shown that only when funding is linked to accreditation does there seem to be significant movement towards accreditation. When an agency or school knows that its receipt of funding depends on accredited status, it will seek accreditation. The benefits are twofold—first, the agency or school will improve its services and operations; second, the agency or school will improve its chances of securing funding. In a time when many nonprofit organizations are scrambling after corporate, foundation, and scarce government dollars, such a benefit would mean much.

Several national organizations of and for the blind have gone on record in support of linking accreditation to funding; the National Steering Committee on Standards and Accreditation, an independent group of professional and consumer leaders in the blindness field, has this goal as a major objective. In order to reap the intangible value of accreditation, agencies and schools must first be made to realize concrete benefits. To many organizations nothing is more tangible than money.

These are exciting times and I am optimistic about NAC's future. Organizations are applying for accreditation in increasing numbers. Consumer support is growing, and the American Council of the Blind is leading the way in advocating for NAC accreditation. We are always updating our standards and our accreditation procedures. We have an enthusiastic staff and are about to have an energetic new director, Dennis L. Hartenstine. He believes in NAC, its mission, and its promise. I'm excited. I am pleased to be able to look to the future with knowledge and appreciation of NAC's past. I'm committed to NAC; we are at the edge of new adventures and at the forefront of the field. It's a good place to be.

—Carl R. Augusto

New C-5 Available

At its meeting in Daytona Beach, NAC's Board of Directors acted on the recommendation made by the Commission on Standards and approved new section C-5 standards for *Community Relations and Financial Development*. Print and cassette copies of the new self-study guide are available from the NAC office for \$3.50 each.

The new C-5 section, which contains standards for public relations, public education and financial development, will serve as the prototype for all phases of the Second Generation—the project to revise comprehensively all of NAC's existing standards.

Fred W. McDonald, chairman of the C-5 Standards Advisory Committee, attributes the success of the revision project "to the enthusiastic response of consumers, professionals, and the general public, and the genuine commitment of all those who were involved in the project."

News from the Commission on Accreditation

At its December meeting, the Commission on Accreditation granted first-time accreditation to the Lions Blind Center in Oakland, California. This brings NAC's accredited membership to 93.

Six organizations, one serving children, and five primarily serving adults, were reaccredited: Georgia Industries for the Blind, Bainbridge; Guiding Eyes for the Blind, Yorktown Heights, New York; Mississippi School for the Blind, Jackson; Sacramento Society for the Blind, California; Vision Center of Central Ohio, Columbus; and Volunteer Blind Industries, Morristown, Tennessee.

In other actions, the Commission extended the accreditations of six organizations for the maximum period.

John R. Proffitt, newly-appointed chairman of the Commission on Accreditation, announced the decisions of the Commission after the meeting. "We are pleased to welcome a new agency to NAC," he said, "and are well impressed with the progress the reaccredited agencies and schools have made. I have been involved with accreditation for much of my professional life and my first experience as Chairman of NAC's Commission has strengthened my faith in the importance and effectiveness of the process."

National Review Begins

NAC invites all interested persons to comment upon the proposed drafts of NAC's revised management standards, sections C-1 *Policy and Administration*, C-2 *Accountability for Services and Finances*, C-3 *Staff and Volunteers*, and C-4 *Buildings and Grounds*, during the national review period from April 1, 1984–July 31, 1984. Copies will be available in print, as well as in alternate media for blind and visually handicapped persons, for \$2.50 each. Contact the NAC office for additional information.

The streamlined standards will replace the current sections C-1—C-4, the set of standards covering management functions of agencies and schools serving blind and visually handicapped persons. This project, the first phase of the Second Generation of standards revisions, is scheduled for completion by December, 1985.

Owen R. Davison, chairman of NAC's Commission on Standards, has appointed Otis H. Stephens, Professor of Political Science at the University of Tennessee and a former NAC president, to chair the Standards Advisory Committee. Other members of the committee are: Floyd R. Cargill, Illinois Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Services for the Blind and Visually Handicapped; William T. Coppage, Virginia Department for the Visually Handicapped; Herbert K. Folpe, Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Co.; Richard E. Hyer, Jr., Georgia Academy for the Blind; George J. Mertz, National Industries for the Blind; Oral O. Miller, American Council of the Blind; Richard J. O'Brien, United Way of America; John R. Proffitt, The Clairion Corporation; Susan J. Spungin, American Foundation for the Blind; and George E. Stocking, Miami Veterans Hospital.

Hartenstine Named (*continued from page 1*)

Community service has been an active part of Mr. Hartenstine's career. He served on the Mayor's Media Committee for the Handicapped in Baltimore, Maryland, which was responsible for establishing a local radio reading service. He currently is a member of the national board of directors of the Association of Radio Reading Services and sits on the Pennsylvania Secretary of Health's Advisory Committee on Genetic Diseases.

Mr. Hartenstine is a graduate of Elizabethtown College with a B.S. in education and has completed graduate courses at Ursinus College, Temple University, and University of Delaware. He is married and has two children.



ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS . . .



Morton Pepper Accepts Award

Morton Pepper, a friend and generous supporter of NAC since 1970, completed his fourth three year term as a member of NAC's Board in November. Mr. Pepper is a long-time member of NAC's Executive Committee, and has been a Vice President since 1977. For many years he chaired the Program Support Committee, and in recent years he has served as Chairman of the Nominations Committee. He has been president and is now honorary president of The Jewish Guild for the Blind, New York City, a NAC accredited organization, and is a partner in the New York law firm of Pepper and Pepper.

McAllister C. Upshaw served as a member of the Commission on Standards and Accreditation of Services for the Blind (COMSTAC), NAC's predecessor, and helped write the original Standards on Rehabilitation Centers and Orientation and Mobility Services. He was a member of NAC's original Board of Directors, and returned to the Board after a period of rotation. He has participated in six on-site reviews, and has served on numerous committees, including the Executive Committee. He has held the office of Vice President, and is presently Chairman of the Long Range Planning Committee. Dr. Upshaw is the retired executive director of the Greater Detroit Society for the Blind.

Pepper, Upshaw Honored for Distinguished Service

Morton Pepper and McAllister C. Upshaw have been named the 1983 recipients of NAC's Distinguished Service Award. Otis H. Stephens, immediate past President, presented the awards at the annual banquet held during the Annual Meeting in Daytona Beach, Florida.

The Distinguished Service Award is given "in grateful recognition of sustained commitment to standards and accreditation, outstanding leadership in the field of work with the blind, and devoted service to blind and visually handicapped Americans." Established in 1982, it honors the service to NAC of persons whose volunteer contributions have extended far beyond the work they did to earn the NAC Service Award. That Award is presented to persons who have rendered substantial service on the Board of Directors, Commissions, committees, or on-site review teams.



Otis H. Stephens Presents Award to McAllister C. Upshaw

... AND MORE



In a moving ceremony during the annual banquet, the Board of Directors presented Dr. Bleecker with a special award—a carved crystal eagle. NAC Secretary, Mrs. Evelyn G. Ullman, in making the presentation on behalf of the Board, said that the eagle, “representing strength, courage, high ideals, and independence,” was an appropriate reflection of the qualities Richard Bleecker had brought to his position. On the accompanying scroll was written: “The National Accreditation Council for Agencies Serving the Blind and Visually Handicapped expresses its warm and sincere appreciation to Dr. Richard W. Bleecker for his outstanding contribution to the organization, his commitment to standards of excellence in services to blind persons, and his effectiveness in challenging the field to soar to the heights of its loftiest ideals.”

NAC Hails Bleecker

Highlighting this year's annual meetings were a series of presentations by and to Dr. Richard W. Bleecker, whose resignation as NAC's executive director was effective November 7.

Dr. Bleecker received a standing ovation for his final remarks to the membership. Using the form of a NAC on-site review report, he made nine commendations and seven recommendations.

He praised NAC for “its distinguished service to blind and visually handicapped men, women, and children,” for its “meaningful help to specialized agencies and schools . . . (and) to the public,” for its system of self-governance through “balanced participation . . . from recognized consumer, professional, and public leaders,” for its receptivity to “external advice and criticism,” and for its “extraordinary volunteer leadership.”

Looking to the future, he recommended that NAC take “the additional steps necessary to maintain its vitality and continue its growth,” that NAC “strive to protect its essential voluntary nature,” and that NAC “encourage and support responsible research into the impact of standards and accreditation.” He concluded by asserting that “NAC is resting on a solid foundation and is moving in the right direction.”

Stephens Honored

Dr. Otis H. Stephens, outgoing NAC President, was presented with a gavel and sound block by Dr. James D. McComas in recognition of his four year presidency. The presentation was made following Dr. Stephens' final report to the membership during this year's annual banquet in Daytona Beach, Florida.

In his address to the membership, Dr. Stephens cited the importance of continuing to develop ways in which blind and sighted persons can work together to create positive images of blind persons and increased opportunities for improving the quality of their lives.

Dr. Stephens, professor of political science at the University of Tennessee, served as chairman of the Commission on Accreditation from 1976 until he was elected president in 1979. During Dr. Stephens' presidency, NAC made substantial progress in its standards development and accreditation programs. He was commended for his success in increasing consumer participation in NAC and for his tireless efforts to enlist the constructive cooperation of all consumer groups in NAC's work.

Dr. Stephens will continue to serve NAC as chairman of the Standards Advisory Committee responsible for revising NAC's management standards.

The Florida Experience

NAC's 1983 annual membership meeting on November 6 featured a panel discussion entitled "The Florida Experience." Donald H. Wedewer, Director of the Florida Division of Blind Services, set the keynote for the discussion with a plea to all those interested in improving accreditation to become involved with it. He chided NAC's critics for staying outside the process. "Don't just stand there and bark," he said. "Come inside and work with us." Mr. Wedewer also discussed ways in which the Florida Division encourages voluntary participation in accreditation. "There is money to help you," he said. "I am urging every voluntary agency for the blind in Florida to seek NAC accreditation soon."

Wedewer introduced panelists Edward F. McCoy (Director of the Conklin Center for the Multihandicapped Blind), Clifford E. Olstrom (Director of the Tampa Lighthouse for the Blind), and Tuck Tinsley III, (principal of the Department of the Blind, Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind). Each panelist explained how accreditation had helped his organization. In the course of discussion, something of the unique character of each organization was revealed.

Mr. McCoy described the way that NAC standards helped to create a new agency. The Conklin Center was formed, with the assistance of the Florida Lions Club and the Florida Division of Blind Services, to serve the large number of multihandicapped blind in Florida. This population was not receiving appropriate services. The purpose of the new Center was to "reduce or eliminate" the "dependence of the multihandicapped blind on institutional living or homebound care and prepare them in the skills of daily living, employment readiness, and specific occupational skills." The first students were accepted in 1979. Mr. McCoy explained that the NAC standards were used as a guide for creating structure and policy for the organization. "The agency is the standards and the standards are the agency," he said.

The Center was initially accredited in June 1981 through December 1983. McCoy noted that the agency was able to earn accreditation quickly because the standards had been used in its creation. In 1983 the Center was considered for extension of accreditation. Many of the recommendations made in the initial on-site review report were connected with the agency's infant status. In 1983 the Commission on Accreditation, reviewing annual progress reports, determined that the agency was developing well in accordance with its own plans and philosophy of service and extended accreditation through December 1986, the maximum allowable period. Standards helped the agency get off to a fast start so that it

could begin serving a neglected group of Florida's population in record time.

Unlike the Conklin Center, which serves a specific population, the Tampa Lighthouse for the Blind serves a diverse population. And unlike the Center, which is young, the Lighthouse was incorporated in 1940. The current services include: sheltered workshop employment, vocational evaluation and work adjustment, work experience and job placement, adjustment training to the aged blind, orientation and mobility, rehabilitation teaching, recreation, arts and crafts, community services, telephone reassurance, social services, transportation, and a variety of volunteer services. Services are directed to the blind and visually handicapped adult population of Hillsborough County.

In his discussion, Mr. Olstrom explained the ways that NAC helped this multiservice agency organize its operations more efficiently, increase its income, and monitor its progress.

When accredited for the first time and for the maximum period in 1976, the Tampa Lighthouse was already a thriving enterprise. The first on-site review report recommended that the agency monitor carefully its income base to assure funding to support the agency's expanding programs. It also urged the agency to develop its industrial engineering so that the workshop could operate more productively. When NAC returned to Tampa in 1981 it noted that workshop revenue had increased by 600% and general agency income by 300%. The physical plant had improved and the staff had increased in number. In addition, long range planning systems were initiated along with a mechanism for program evaluation. What had been a sound, thriving, and energetic agency became even more efficient and productive.

Tuck Tinsley, the third panelist, told a more personal story about his involvement with accreditation. Appointed principal of the Department of the Blind, Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind in 1980, he had been previously Assistant Principal and teacher at the school. The School, which will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 1985, aims to provide "the blind and partially seeing children of the State of Florida an educational program adapted to their needs." With such a long history, the school must continuously work toward meeting the needs of the changing population it serves. Initially accredited in 1978 for two years, the school impressed the Commission on Accreditation with its rapid progress in implementing the recommendations of the on-site review team. In 1980 extension for the maximum period was granted. NAC revisited the school in 1983; this time accreditation was awarded for the maximum period.

Maine Center for the Blind; Portland Robert J. Crouse, Executive Director	(81-84)	Blind Association of Western New York; Buffalo Michael L. Comini, Executive Director	(73-84)
MARYLAND		Center for Independent Living; New York Douglas E. Inkster, Executive Director	(80-85)
Maryland School for the Blind; Baltimore Richard L. Welsh, Superintendent	(69-85)	Jewish Guild for the Blind; New York John F. Heimerdinger, Executive Director	(72-87)
MASSACHUSETTS		New York Association for the Blind; New York Wesley D. Sprague, Executive Director	(70-85)
Perkins School for the Blind; Watertown Charles C. Woodcock, Director	(70-86)	Association for the Blind of Rochester and Monroe County; Rochester Stanley J. Grenn, Executive Director	(76-85)
MICHIGAN		Syracuse Association of Workers for the Blind; Syracuse Milton Rosenblum, Executive Director	(71-84)
Greater Detroit Society for the Blind; Detroit Carroll Jackson, Executive Director	(70-86)	Central Association for the Blind; Utica Donald D. LoGuidice, Executive Director	(77-84)
Service Center for Visually Impaired; Flint Cheryl L. La Roque, Acting Director	(82-85)	Guiding Eyes for the Blind; Yorktown Heights Martin S. Yablonski, Executive Director	(74-86)
Association for the Blind and for Sight Conservation; Grand Rapids William J. Leeder, Executive Vice President	(79-84)	NORTH CAROLINA	
Michigan School for the Blind; Lansing A. Charles Weir, Principal	(70-86)	Governor Morehead School; Raleigh George N. Lee, Director	(72-87)
MINNESOTA		NORTH DAKOTA	
Minneapolis Society for the Blind; Minneapolis Jane Pazlar, Interim President	(70-86)	North Dakota School for the Blind; Grand Forks Charles R. Borchert, Superintendent	(80-85)
MISSISSIPPI		OHIO	
Royal Maid Association for the Blind; Hazlehurst John L. Granger, Vice President	(71-87)	Cincinnati Association for the Blind; Cincinnati Milton A. Jahoda, Executive Director	(69-85)
Mississippi School for the Blind; Jackson R.C. Benton, Superintendent	(80-85)	Clovernook Home and School for the Blind; Cincinnati Gerald W. Mundy, Executive Director	(76-85)
Vocational Rehabilitation for the Blind; Jackson J. Elton Moore, Director	(73-85)	Ohio State School for the Blind; Columbus Dennis L. Holmes, Superintendent	(69-85)
MISSOURI		Center for the Visually Impaired; Elyria Terry R. Lugenbeal, Executive Director	(81-84)
Kansas City Association for the Blind; Kansas City Thomas Healy, Executive Director	(71-84)	Vision Center of Central Ohio; Columbus Richard Oestreich, Executive Director	(75-89)
NEW HAMPSHIRE		Toledo Society for the Blind; Toledo Barry A. McEwen, Executive Director	(78-85)
New Hampshire Association for the Blind; Concord Gale N. Stickler, Executive Director	(73-84)	OKLAHOMA	
NEW JERSEY		Parkview School; Muskogee Ronald M. Casey, Superintendent	(70-85)
St. Joseph's School for the Blind; Jersey City Sr. Mary Kuiken, CSJ, Administrator	(72-85)	Division of Visual Services; Oklahoma City Travis Harris, Programs Coordinator	(78-86)
Recording for the Blind; Princeton Stuart Carothers, Executive Director	(72-84)	Oklahoma League for the Blind; Oklahoma City LeRoy F. Saunders, Executive Director	(78-85)
NEW MEXICO		PENNSYLVANIA	
New Mexico School for the Visually Handicapped; Alamogordo Jerry Watkins, Superintendent	(79-84)	Lancaster County Branch, Pennsylvania Association for the Blind; Lancaster Marion R. Campbell, Executive Director	(73-85)
NEW YORK		Pittsburgh Branch, Pennsylvania Association for the Blind; Pittsburgh Dennis J. Huber, Executive Director	(70-85)
Northeastern Association of the Blind at Albany; Albany Michael B. Freedman, Executive Director	(75-86)	PUERTO RICO	
Blind Work Association; Binghamton Conrad Range, Managing Director	(71-86)	Loaiza Cordero Institute for Blind Children; Santurce Angel L. Quinones, Director	(81-86)
IHB Services for the Blind; Brooklyn Joseph J. Larkin, Executive Director	(71-84)		
New York Institute for the Education of the Blind; Bronx Robert L. Guarino, Director	(78-85)		



Look For This Symbol
of Quality

List of Accredited Members

as of December 30, 1983

This list of accredited members may be used to assist blind and visually handicapped people in selecting quality services. And it may also be used to assist the public—which supports these services through contributions and taxes—in identifying high quality and fiscally accountable agencies and schools for the blind.

Two dates appear for each organization: the year in which accreditation was first achieved, and the year through which accreditation has been awarded.

ALABAMA

- Alabama School for the Blind; Talladega
Ronald L. Garrett, Principal (78-85)
- Department of Adult Blind and Deaf; Talladega
Hank Baud, Vice President, Adult Services (77-88)

ARIZONA

- Center for the Blind; Phoenix
Allen Woody, Executive Director (82-86)
- Services for the Blind Section; Phoenix
K. Edward House, Manager (71-86)
- Foundation for Blind Children; Scottsdale
John H. Maxson, Executive Director (78-88)
- Department for the Visually Handicapped, Arizona
State School for the Deaf and the Blind; Tucson
Barry L. Griffing, Superintendent (72-87)
- Tucson Association for the Blind; Tucson
Kenneth W. Gavitt, Executive Director (80-85)
- Yuma Center for the Visually Impaired; Yuma
Jim J. Mullin, Director (81-84)

ARKANSAS

- Arkansas Enterprises for the Blind; Little Rock
James Cordell, Executive Director (69-84)
- Arkansas School for the Blind; Little Rock
Hugh A. Pace, Superintendent (69-84)
- Arkansas State Office for the Blind and Visually
Impaired; Little Rock
Richard Seifert, Administrator (76-86)

CALIFORNIA

- Lions Blind Center; Oakland
Doris Strong, Executive Director (83-85)
- Sacramento Society for the Blind; Sacramento
Thomas C. Ryan, Executive Director (73-88)

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

- Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind; Washington, D.C.
Charles A. Fegan, Executive Director (70-86)

FLORIDA

- Conklin Center for Multihandicapped Blind;
Daytona Beach
Edward F. McCoy, Executive Director (81-86)

- Florida Association of Workers for the Blind; Miami
Vernon Metcalf, Executive Director (78-85)
- Visually Impaired Persons of Southwest Florida;
North Fort Myers
Judy H. Lloyd, Executive Director (83-85)
- Department for the Blind, Florida School for the Deaf
and the Blind; St. Augustine
Robert T. Dawson, President (78-88)
- Florida Division of Blind Services; Tallahassee
Donald H. Wedewer, Director (74-84)
- Tampa Lighthouse for the Blind; Tampa
C.E. Olstrom, Executive Director (76-87)
- Lighthouse for the Blind of the Palm Beaches;
West Palm Beach
William S. Thompson, Executive Director (80-85)

GEORGIA

- Atlanta Area Services for the Blind; Atlanta
Carolyn Kokenge, Executive Director (72-86)
- Georgia Industries for the Blind; Bainbridge
Clayton Penhallegon, Executive Director (78-88)
- Georgia Academy for the Blind; Macon
Richard E. Hyer, Jr., Superintendent (78-88)

HAWAII

- Services for the Blind Branch; Honolulu
Jane Egi, Acting Administrator (72-84)

ILLINOIS

- Chicago Lighthouse for the Blind; Chicago
Milton Samuelson, Executive Director (71-86)
- Illinois Bureau of Rehabilitation Services for
the Blind; Chicago
Thomas C. Hanson, Administrator (83-85)
- Illinois School for the Visually Impaired; Jacksonville
Richard G. Umsted, Superintendent (75-85)
- Hadley School for the Blind; Winnetka
Robert J. Winn, President (70-85)

IOWA

- Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School; Vinton
Richard M. DeMott, Superintendent (71-86)

KANSAS

- Kansas Division of Services for the Blind; Topeka
Richard A. Schutz, Director (71-86)

LOUISIANA

- Louisiana Association for the Blind; Shreveport
DeWayne Robertson, Executive Director (70-85)

MAINE

- Division of Eye Care, Augusta
Paul E. Rourke, Director (70-85)

Continued →



The Florida Experience

At the time of the first on-site review, explained Mr. Tinsley, he was a teacher at the school. He described being impressed with the way that self-study brought the entire school community closer together. He became further involved with NAC in 1981, when he served on his first on-site review team. By 1983, when the school was scheduled for reaccreditation, Mr. Tinsley was principal. He explained that as a somewhat unseasoned administrator he found the NAC standards extremely useful management tools. They helped him with budget-making and with administrative and program planning. In 1983 the on-site review team commended the school's progress in clarifying the administrative structure and in improving its educational services. NAC clearly had an impact on both the school and its Principal.

The panel discussion was well received; "The Florida Experience" demonstrates some of the many ways that NAC can have a positive effect on blind persons and on the organizations and individuals working with them.

NAC Staff Notes

NAC's newest staff associate is Leslye Sage Piqueras, who joined NAC in August, 1983. Before coming to New York, Ms. Piqueras was Educational Coordinator of Visually Impaired Programs for the Regional Educational Service Agency in Illinois. She received a B.S. in elementary education from SUNY at Geneseo and an M.S. from Boston College in the teaching of the visually impaired.

At NAC Ms. Piqueras divides her time between the accreditation and standards functions.

Decade of Disabled Persons Underway

The United Nations General Assembly has proclaimed 1983-1992 as the Decade of Disabled Persons. In a recent proclamation, President Reagan pledged the cooperation of his administration, setting "a clear national goal—to increase the economic independence of every disabled American."

NAC supports these aims, and has joined the National Organization on Disability (NOD) as a national partner. This makes us part of a broadly coordinated effort to stimulate greater public recognition of the capabilities of the 35 million Americans with physical or mental disabilities.

Working with the national partners are state and local partners who conduct workshops, conferences, and seminars in observance of the Decade of Disabled Persons. NAC can put you in touch with your state partner liaison who can give you more information.

NAC encourages you to support this effort and help create an environment in which blind and other disabled persons may lead self-reliant, productive lives.

Board, Officers Elected (*continued from page 1*)

Officers elected for a one year term were: Huntington Harris (Leesburg, Virginia), 1st Vice President; Joseph E. Champagne (Rochester, Michigan), 2nd Vice President; and Leroy F. Saunders (Oklahoma City, Oklahoma), 3rd Vice President. Evelyn G. Ullman (Atlanta, Georgia) continues as Secretary, Peter W. Connelly (Webster, New York) as Treasurer. Nancy W. Bryant (Bronx, New York) and James R. Olsen (Minneapolis, Minnesota) will serve as members-at-large of the executive committee.

New Board members elected for three year terms were: John R. Proffitt (Bethesda, Maryland) who will succeed McComas as Chairman of the Commission on Accreditation; Mary V.B. Stephens (Barrington, Rhode Island); and R. Max Casey (Muskogee, Oklahoma).

In addition to Dr. Champagne, seven incumbent NAC directors were elected to a second term: Delbert K. Aman (Aberdeen, South Dakota); Adrian J. DeBlaey (Milwaukee, Wisconsin); James S. Jeffers (Baltimore, Maryland); Jerry R. Monroe (Bricktown, New Jersey); Gerald W. Mundy (Cincinnati, Ohio); A. Therese Snyder (Old Bridge, New Jersey); and McAllister C. Upshaw (Detroit, Michigan).



RHODE ISLAND

Rhode Island Association for the Blind and
Visually Impaired; Providence
Judith Smith Executive Director (68-85)

Rhode Island State Services for the Blind and
Visually Impaired; Providence
E. Lyman D'Andrea, Administrator (70-86)

SOUTH DAKOTA

South Dakota School for the Visually Handicapped;
Aberdeen
Charles B. Boyer, Superintendent (80-84)

Division of Services to the Visually Impaired; Pierre
David Vogel, Director (72-85)

TENNESSEE

Tennessee School for the Blind; Donelson
Raymond Hunter, Administrative Assistant/
Interim Superintendent (70-85)

Volunteer Blind Industries; Morristown
J.C. Austin, Executive Director (79-85)

TEXAS

Texas School for the Blind; Austin
William H. Miller, Executive Director (82-84)

Travis Association for the Blind; Austin
Fred M. Weber, Director (82-84)

Dallas Lighthouse for the Blind; Dallas
Austin G. Scott, President (70-85)

Dallas Services for Visually Impaired Children; Dallas
Chris Tompkins, Executive Director (70-85)

Lighthouse for the Blind of Houston; Houston
Gibson M. DuTerroil, President (69-86)

VIRGINIA

School for the Blind, Virginia School for the Deaf
and Blind at Hampton; Hampton
Stewart T. Bowden, Principal (83-85)

Virginia Department for the Visually Handicapped;
Richmond
William T. Coppage, Director (69-84)

WASHINGTON

Lighthouse for the Blind; Seattle
George Jacobson, Executive Director (71-87)

WEST VIRGINIA

West Virginia School for the Blind; Romney
Jack W. Brady, Superintendent (76-85)

WISCONSIN

Visually Impaired Persons Department, Milwaukee
Area Technical College; Milwaukee
George Sippl, Supervisor (82-87)

Wisconsin School for the Visually Handicapped;
Janesville
William H. English, Superintendent (73-88)

Industries for the Blind; Milwaukee
Claude W. Hirsch, Executive Vice President (78-86)

Double Your Dollars

Looking for a bargain? Here's one we hope you won't pass up: you can double the monetary value of your contribution to NAC if your employer has a

matching gifts program. Many companies now match employees' contributions to charity. Check with your firm's personnel or business office for details.

NATIONAL ACCREDITATION COUNCIL
for Agencies Serving the Blind and Visually Handicapped

79 Madison Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10016

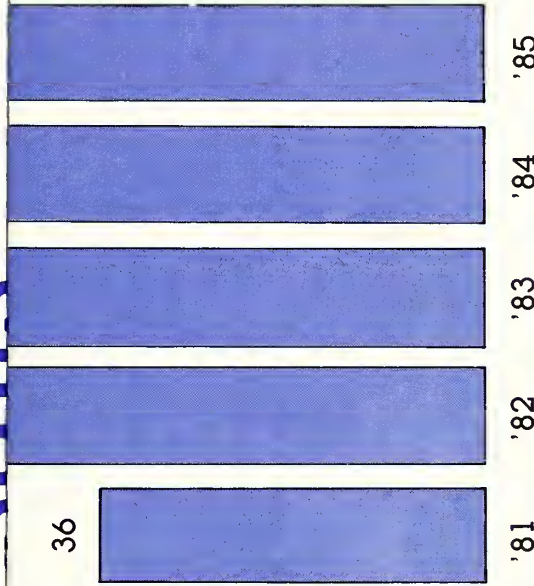


Election Results

Supporters to 59.

Supporting memberships are among the categories of affiliation with NAC open to national, state, and local organizations that do not provide services encompassed by the NAC standards but wish to assist in the effort to promote quality services to blind and visually impaired persons through standards and accreditation.

A list of all the organizations that Sponsor and Support NAC's work is available from the NAC office and will be published in its entirety in an upcoming issue of *The Standard-Bearer*.



Jeffers to Chair

articles on rehabilitation and disability and has been the recipient of a number of awards, including the 1978 P.J. Trevelyan Award for Outstanding Management in the Field of Rehabilitation and the 1977 Handicapped American of the Year award given by the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped.

Mr. Jeffers is presently detailed to Secretary of Health and Human Services Margaret M. Heckler's Office of Special Projects on Disability Issues. He resides with his wife Trudy in Baltimore, Maryland.

The Standard-Bearer

No. 48 Spring 1985



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NATIONAL ACCREDITATION COUNCIL
for Agencies Serving the Blind and Visually Handicapped

79 Madison Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10016



Election Results

Three new members were elected to NAC's Board of Directors at the meeting of the corporate membership on November 10, 1984 in Boston. Elected to serve for three-year terms are: William T. Coppage, Commissioner, Virginia Department for the Visually Handicapped; Thomas H. Miller, Supervisor, Blind Rehabilitation Clinic, Veterans Administration Medical Center, Texas; and Morton Pepper, Esq., Pepper & Pepper, New York.

At the Board of Directors meeting on November 11, the entire slate of candidates for officers was elected unanimously. Elected to serve for one-year terms are: Joseph E. Champagne, President, Oakland University, Michigan, elected First Vice-President; LeRoy F. Saunders, Executive Director, Oklahoma League for the Blind, elected Second Vice-President; and George E. Stocking, Counseling Psychologist, Miami Veterans Hospital, Florida, elected Third Vice-President. Evelyn G. Ullman, Atlanta, Georgia, was reelected Secretary; Peter W. Connelly, Manager, Fuji Xerox Administration, Connecticut, was reelected Treasurer; and Nancy W. Bryant, Montessori Society of Central



Morton Pepper

Maryland and James R. Olsen, Executive Director, American Council of the Blind Enterprises and Services, Inc., Minnesota, continue as members-at-large of NAC's Executive Committee.

Owen R. Davison of Pennsylvania received the NAC Board Award for serving two consecutive three-year terms as a Board member. In addition, Mr. Davison served as member and Chairperson of NAC's Commission on Standards.



Thomas H. Miller



William T. Coppage

Jeffers to Chair Commission on Standards



James S. Jeffers

James S. Jeffers, Associate Commissioner for Governmental Affairs, Social Security Administration, has accepted Council President McComas' invitation to serve as Chairperson of NAC's Commission on Standards. He succeeds Owen R. Davison, who served for three years.

The Commission on Standards is responsible for guiding the development and revision of standards for all appropriate areas of services and management. In accepting the appointment, Mr. Jeffers said, "I have been a member of the Commission during my tenure with NAC and find the standards development process intellectually stimulating, enjoyable, and extremely worthwhile. I look forward to the opportunity to continue that involvement through the second generation of standards revisions."

Mr. Jeffers has been an active member of NAC's Board of Directors since 1980. In 1983 he was appointed to a one year term as member and Chairperson of the Nominations Committee, succeeding Morton Pepper.

Born in West Virginia, Mr. Jeffers attended Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, where he earned the Bachelor and Master of Arts degrees in political science. He completed postgraduate work at the University of Illinois and went on to hold a number of legislative and human services positions, specializing in rehabilitation-related programs. Prior to accepting his present position with the Social Security Administration, he served as Director of the Illinois Department of Rehabilitation Services and as Director of the Illinois Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.

Mr. Jeffers has published a variety of articles on rehabilitation and disability and has been the recipient of a number of awards, including the 1978 P.J. Trevelyan Award for Outstanding Management in the Field of Rehabilitation and the 1977 Handicapped American of the Year award given by the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped.

Mr. Jeffers is presently detailed to Secretary of Health and Human Services Margaret M. Heckler's Office of Special Projects on Disability Issues. He resides with his wife Trudy in Baltimore, Maryland.

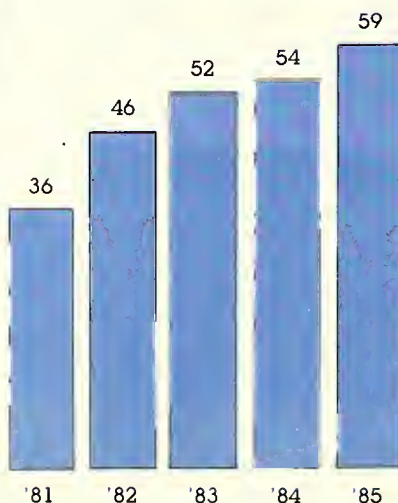
Support for Accreditation Grows

NAC is pleased to welcome the American Diabetes Association, the Council of Citizens with Low Vision, the Jacksonville, Illinois Lions Club, the RP Foundation Fighting Blindness, and the Rhode Island Regional Council of the Blind and Visually Impaired, the newest organizations to join NAC as official Supporters. This brings the total number of Sponsors and Supporters to 59.

Supporting memberships are among the categories of affiliation with NAC open to national, state, and local organizations that do not provide services encompassed by the NAC standards but wish to assist in the effort to promote quality services to blind and visually impaired persons through standards and accreditation.

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Growth of Sponsors and Supporters in Recent Years



Comments from the Executive Director

A year has passed since I began my activities as NAC's Executive Director. So much has occurred during this year, and yet it's gone by so quickly that sometimes I feel I've just begun.

In approaching my new responsibility as administrator, I spoke with many leaders in the field and heads of accredited organizations; studied NAC as an organization and the issues at hand; and consulted with the staff members themselves. From my findings I established five major objectives which I have referred to in speeches and in personal conversations. It is fitting at this time to share some of the initiatives taken and changes instituted to move forward toward achieving these objectives.

In order to secure independent funding for NAC, we employed a highly experienced Director of Development to undertake a nationwide campaign with corporations and foundations. Although it will take time for NAC to reap tangible results from this effort, several new corporations and foundations have already demonstrated a commitment to NAC's standards development and accreditation program. A fund raising update appears elsewhere in this issue.

The expanded efforts being made to heighten public awareness—increased travel and speeches, an exhibit, new certificates and publications—are proving worthwhile, and we have received positive feedback in regard to NAC's enhanced image and higher visibility. I believe strongly that as we continue this up-graded public education program we will continue to see attitudes changing and progress in the advancement of accreditation.

Yes, we have made a substantial investment in fund development and public education, but I am convinced that in these programs lies the key to NAC's independence. It is, therefore, necessary that we make this investment now in order to prosper in the years ahead. I continue to be very optimistic about NAC's future and confident in our ability to achieve our objective of a stronger, more viable organization.

In keeping with NAC's mission, one of our primary functions involves rendering meaningful services to accredited mem-

bers. These specialized agencies and schools, which last year alone provided direct services to approximately 260,000 men, women, and children nationwide, receive individualized attention from the NAC staff.

As part of our new focus, NAC will serve as a source of updated information and referral. For example, with the help of our new computer equipment, we can process the major commendations and recommendations most often cited in on-site review reports and share this information with accredited agencies and schools. We plan to begin working with this data shortly so that at future annual meetings we may conduct workshops to help accredited members.

The importance of keeping abreast of needs and requests for additional and updated standards for services to blind and visually impaired persons is everpresent at NAC. Most of our efforts this year were devoted to the revision of the standards for management. We are already receiving positive comments on the new and innovative streamlined format of the C-5 standards for *Community Relations and Financial Development*, and we plan to publish and distribute the remaining four sets of management standards by the end of this year. In addition, the Commission on Standards continues to evaluate the significance and use of standards for guide dog schools, public day school programs, and business enterprise programs.

We believe in the need to tie the recognition of accreditation to the acquisition of federal and state funds. Although efforts have been made in this area, progress has been minimal. However, we hope that the continued work of the Commission on Advancement of Accreditation and the National Steering Committee on Standards and Accreditation will result in the application of accreditation as a provision for receiving certain funding. If achieved, this would be a most meaningful incentive for organizations to work toward and maintain accredited status.

During the past year we have continued to build upon NAC's distinguished record of working to assure that blind and visually impaired persons receive the best possible services so that they may



live as self-reliant, self-assured individuals in the mainstream of society, and we have seen concrete evidence of the changes taking place. NAC's Annual Meeting, held in Boston, Massachusetts last November, brought together a large number of those who work on behalf of quality services throughout the country. I was quite pleased and impressed to see the enthusiasm and dedication of the individuals and organizations involved in NAC, and I would like to express my appreciation to everyone who played a part in making this meeting a success.

With any change in management there is always apprehension about the future. I am extremely grateful to NAC's volunteers, accredited agencies and schools, Sponsors and Supporters, and staff, who supported my changes and efforts. I look forward to the year ahead with a renewed energy and commitment.

In closing, I wish to extend a special thanks to Carl Augusto for his unwavering service and assistance during my first year with NAC. Carl has resigned from NAC after nine and a half years of service to assume the position of Executive Director of the NAC-accredited Cincinnati Association for the Blind. We all wish him the best at CAB and are confident he will continue to shine as a leader in the blindness field. To Dorothy Matano, who has retired from NAC but will remain active as a member of the Commission on Advancement of Accreditation and as president of the American Council of the Blind of New York State, a NAC Supporter, we wish a long and happy (semi) retirement.

Advisory Committee Approves Standards

At its February 1-3, 1985 meeting in Daytona Beach, Florida, the national standards advisory committee developed final revised drafts of the four remaining sets of standards for management: C-1, *Policy and Administration*; C-2, *Accountability for Services and Finances*; C-3, *Staff and Volunteers*; and C-4, *Buildings and Grounds*. The recently published C-5, *Community Relations and Financial Development*, served as the prototype for the standards revision project.

Committee Chairperson Otis H. Stephens, Professor of Political Science at the University of Tennessee and a member of NAC's President's Council, said "It was an excellent and very pro-

ductive meeting. Everyone arrived well-prepared and ready for discussion; it was obvious they had given a great deal of attention and forethought to the material."

The material included working drafts of the revised standards and all of the input received during the four month period of national review. "The committee," noted Dr. Stephens, "was extremely pleased that so many consumers, professionals, and others interested in accreditation had taken the time to provide suggestions to the drafts. The response was even greater than we had anticipated."

According to Dr. Stephens, the standards have been improved both in clarity and in content. Now more concise and readable, they reflect up-to-date changes

in the field of blindness and visual impairment as well as emerging issues and priorities.

The four drafts will be distributed to the Commission on Standards for approval at its next meeting. Final revisions of the standards will then be circulated to the Board of Directors, who holds responsibility for all decisions on the adoption of revised standards. Pending the Board's approval, the standards will be published and made available in print and in alternate media for blind and visually impaired persons, and incorporated in NAC's accreditation and reaccreditation program.

Spotlight on

based on a conversation with Richard L. Welsh, AER President

In 1984 the long-awaited consolidation of the Association for Education of the Visually Handicapped and the American Association of Workers for the Blind was finalized. The "First International Conference" of the new Alliance (the second one is planned for Chicago in 1986), held last June in Nashville, Tennessee, offered an exciting program of opportunities for professional development and peer interaction to the 1,000 conferencegoers. By the end of the week it was clear that the two organizations had united in a common cause, and a new association had emerged—the Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (AER).

Led by Board President Richard L. Welsh and Executive Director Kathleen Megivern, AER is the international association of professionals and others who are interested in the promotion, development, and improvement of all phases of education and rehabilitation for blind and visually impaired persons of all ages. Its membership consists of a very diverse group, ranging from professionals trained specifically for disciplines that focus directly on blindness, such as orientation and mobility, rehabilitation teaching, and classroom teaching of the blind and visually impaired, to those trained in more generally related disciplines such as social work, rehabilitation counseling, special education, and optometry. Others were trained in work for the blind through on-the-job programs in their schools and agencies, and still others are volunteers who work with blind and visually impaired persons. All are committed to the principle that blind persons have unique needs which require specialized services delivered by trained individuals.

Members of AER belong to and vote in one or more of 16 special interest divisions. They also participate at the international, regional, and chapter levels through conferences and on committees which address governance of the organization, legislative and advocacy efforts, publications, certification, membership, and program planning for conferences. With more than 5,300 members in 1984 and the pace of enrollment even greater in 1985, AER is moving forward in a major membership campaign instituted to help the organization continue to grow and to improve the services that it can offer to members and to the field.

"Since Nashville, AER has been developing the national committee structure and trying to tie this more closely to the regional and local committee activities," says Dr. Welsh. "I think that most members will benefit greatly from strong local chapters. And a natural result of strong local chapters will be a strong national organization."

AER is staffed by five employees who work out of a small office in Alexandria, Virginia. Under Ms. Megivern's direction, staff functions and activities include membership, publications, conventions, and general administrative functions. "We are all working extremely hard," explains Ms. Megivern, "to make AER

the best association it can be. We are fortunate to have a dedicated president like Dr. Welsh. His strong commitment and very active involvement are the reason our new association is making such immediate progress."

Asked in a recent interview how he views his new role, Dr. Welsh replied: "to carry out the basic responsibilities of a president as best I can—supporting the staff, clarifying policy questions between Board meetings, chairing Board meetings, etc.—and to see to it that the organization functions as it is supposed to and, most importantly, that it continues to move forward as directed by its members. In other words, I am leading my troops in the direction they wish to go."

Dr. Welsh brings a wealth of administrative and service oriented experience to the AER Board. Superintendent of the



Visually impaired student uses telescopic aid. Photo by O.E. Catledge, American Foundation for the Blind.

NAC-accredited Maryland School for the Blind since 1978, he was previously the Coordinator of the Blind Rehabilitation Training Program at Cleveland State University, Instructor in the Orientation and Mobility training program at the University of Pittsburgh, and Mobility Specialist at the Western Pennsylvania School for Blind Children.

His involvement with the professional association began when he first started teaching orientation and mobility. "I was eager to have the opportunity to interact with other mobility specialists in order to learn more about my profession and to share what I was learning on my own. That's one of the most rewarding benefits of being a member of AER today—the chance to develop friendships and professional contacts from all over the country and from other countries as well.

"Another reason I joined stemmed from my deep concern as I looked around and saw the number of people teaching orientation and mobility without the proper training. I wanted to work to help develop standards and the much needed certification procedures."

Many people refer to the "Standard of Good Practice" certification that was initiated by AAWB in the mid-1950's as the catalyst which led to the founding of NAC, the only national standard-setting and accrediting body in the field, in the



Richard L. Welsh, Ph.D.

1960's. NAC's purpose is tantamount to that of the professional association—to improve the quality of life and services for blind and visually impaired persons, and the involvement of AER is an essential component to NAC's ability to fulfill its mission.

During its meeting in Nashville, AER passed the resolution 84-10, affirming its commitment to NAC's efforts and commending NAC "on its commitment to professional provision of service to blind children and adults." Following the passing of the resolution, AER joined NAC as an active Sponsoring member. This entitles the national association to a vote at the corporate membership meeting, and to many of the privileges extended to accredited organizations. In addition, almost one-third of AER's state chapters—including Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Minnesota, Mississippi, New York, Oklahoma, and

(Continued on page 7)



Professional teaches orientation and mobility skills to visually impaired woman. Photo by O.E. Catledge, American Foundation for the Blind.

1984 Annual Meeting



James D. McComas presents plaque for outstanding and dedicated service to Master of Ceremonies Charles C. (Chuck) Woodcock.



Huntington Harris (right), Distinguished Service Award recipient, is congratulated by Council President James D. McComas.



State Senator George Bachrach reads Governor's Proclamation declaring Nov. 4-11 "NAC WEEK" in Massachusetts.



Richard G. Umsted, Chairperson of the Commission on Advancement of Accreditation, reviews the Commission's efforts during the past year before distributing membership certificates to Sponsoring and Supporting organizations in attendance.

Commission on Accreditation Chairperson John R. Proffitt discusses NAC's accomplishments in accreditation.



Photography by Ronald Trahan

NAC's 1984 Annual Meeting, November 10-11, 1984 in Boston, Massachusetts, brought together over 100 key professionals, consumers, and lay persons concerned with improving services to blind and visually impaired persons through the application of standards and accreditation. Massachusetts Governor Michael S. Dukakis and Boston Mayor Raymond Flynn marked the event by proclaiming November 4-11 "NAC WEEK" in Massachusetts.

Held at The Colonnade Hotel in Boston's Back Bay, the meetings were co-hosted by seven New England organizations who helped coordinate local activities and provided warm hospitality throughout the weekend. They are NAC-accredited organizations: Division of Eye Care, Augusta, Maine; IN-SIGHT, Providence, Rhode Island; Maine Center for the Blind, Portland; New Hampshire Association for the Blind, Concord; Perkins School for the Blind, Watertown, Massachusetts; and Rhode Island State Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Providence; and official NAC Supporter: Bay State Council of the Blind (an American Council of the Blind affiliate), Massachusetts.

NAC President James D. McComas presided over the meetings, expressing his pleasure with the continuing commitment of Board members, accredited agencies and schools, and Sponsors and Supporters to standards and accreditation. In his report he stressed the challenges ahead for NAC and listed a number of issues to be examined in the coming year including the scope of NAC's accreditation program and the greater involvement of Board members in NAC activities.

Dennis L. Hartenstine, NAC's Executive Director, outlined the activities and progress of the past year. His report

covered the increase and new total in number of accredited organizations; the approval and distribution of the revised C-5, standards for *Community Relations and Financial Development*; the positive results from the emphasis on public education and fund raising; and the installation of computer and word processing equipment to facilitate NAC's efforts.

The membership also heard reports from NAC's Treasurer, Associate Executive Director, and Commission and Committee Chairpersons.

Experiences with Accreditation

The Saturday afternoon program featured the executives of two New England organizations discussing their experiences with the accreditation process. Charles C. Woodcock, Director, Perkins School for the Blind, recalled his work with a number of schools for the blind and visually impaired that became "healthier" overall through their efforts to achieve accreditation. "One way I've always been true to myself in my professional career," said Mr. Woodcock, "has been to always seek to improve programs with which I have chosen to associate. . . NAC has been the best way I have known to do this."

Robert J. Crouse, Executive Director of the Maine Center for the Blind, narrated the story of the Maine Center's successful turnaround after having been the first agency in the country from which NAC accreditation was withdrawn involuntarily. With a concerted effort, a great deal of hard work, and the use of the NAC standards as guidelines for reviving and establishing additional services, the agency regained its accredited status, the number of persons served escalated from 50 to the present 600, and the Center redeemed itself in the eyes of the com-

munity as a reputable, fully accountable service provider.

Dr. Crouse urged "those agencies and schools who are not accredited—don't be afraid to stand up; don't be afraid to measure up; don't be afraid to put a little on the line to help improve your programs and the people you serve in a high quality manner. . . the system of accreditation works."

Following the meeting, slide presentations were shown of the New Hampshire Association for the Blind and Perkins School for the Blind. Tours of Perkins School were conducted on Friday for those able to attend.

Banquet Highlights

Opening remarks at the Saturday evening banquet were offered by State Senator George Bachrach, who welcomed the group to the Commonwealth and read the proclamation issued by Massachusetts Governor Michael S. Dukakis.

Huntington Harris received NAC's Distinguished Service Award for his outstanding service and volunteer contributions to NAC. Mr. Harris, who has served on NAC's Finance Committee, as member and Chairperson of the Program Support Committee, and as first Chairperson of the Commission on Advancement of Accreditation, completed his fourth three-year term as a member of NAC's Board in November. In accepting the award, Mr. Harris cited his long-standing friendship with Douglas MacFarland, the person who motivated his original involvement in NAC. Mr. Harris, a strong believer in standards and accreditation, expressed his confidence that NAC would endure as a catalyst for quality services to blind and visually impaired persons.

President McComas presented a special award to Master of Ceremonies



Proclamation pledging support for NAC's efforts to strengthen organizations serving blind and visually impaired persons.

Charles C. Woodcock in recognition of his support and advocacy for accreditation. Mr. Woodcock, who retired in December 1984 as Director of the Perkins School, accepted the award with gratitude. "If there's any way that you as an individual can foster the aims of the National Accreditation Council," he said, "it certainly behooves you to do so, and I shall continue to do so."

A similar award of recognition was presented earlier in the day to Milton A. Jahoda, the retiring Director of the Cincinnati Association for the Blind, Ohio.

The evening concluded with an inspirational program of song provided by the Perkins School for the Blind Chamber Singers.

Bylaws Amendment

At its meeting on Sunday, November 10, the Board of Directors voted to amend the NAC Bylaws, changing the name of the Commission on Advancement of Standards to the Commission on Advancement of Accreditation, as recommended by the Commission and the Executive Committee. The change was made to reflect more accurately the Commission's purpose and activities.

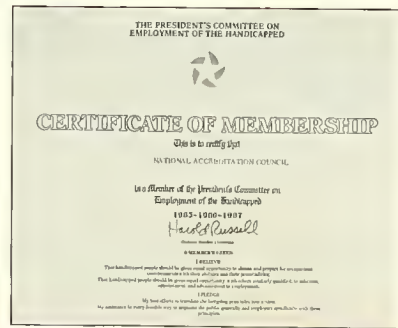
Next year's meetings will be held in Little Rock, Arkansas. Watch for more information in the Summer issue of *The Standard-Bearer*.

President's Committee Reappoints NAC

Harold Russell, Chairman, has announced the reappointment of NAC to a three-year term as an organizational member of the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped.

In reviewing the decision, Mr. Russell cited NAC's "experience, enthusiasm, and support" in helping to promote the objectives of the President's Committee. This Committee works to assure equal employment practices and opportunities for all handicapped persons.

NAC has been a member of the President's Committee since 1973.



Recent Resolutions

Across the country, professional and consumer organizations concerned with the issue of improving the quality of services to blind and visually handicapped persons are passing resolutions in support of the use of nationally recognized standards and accreditation. The following are summaries of resolutions known to NAC passed in recent months.

- **The Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired**, the organization of professional workers in the blindness field, passed a resolution affirming its commitment to and confidence in NAC's efforts.
- **The Council of Citizens with Low Vision**, a major affiliate of the American Council of the Blind, passed a resolution encouraging low vision services to seek accreditation from NAC as a means of increasing the quantity and quality of low vision services throughout the United States. In response to the resolution passed by CCLV, the **American Council of the Blind** adopted a similar resolution citing NAC accreditation as a reliable means of fostering the development and implementation of high quality services.
- **The American Council of the Blind of California** resolved to seek to urge nonaccredited private agencies for the blind in California to consider NAC accreditation and to direct its legislative committee to investigate the potential for and possible value of legislation requiring all California agencies for the blind to obtain NAC accreditation as a condition for receiving state funds.
- A resolution passed by the **Louisiana Council of the Blind** recognized accreditation as serving "several useful purposes such as assuring a certain standard of service to the clients, greater opportunities for adequate funding and an opportunity to continually improve the standards of the agency through self-studies and external evaluation." The Council resolved to encourage any nonaccredited agency serving the blind in Louisiana to seek and obtain NAC accreditation.
- The officers and members of the **Old Dominion Council of the Blind, Virginia**, resolved to "stand ready to assist and work with all responsible officials and agencies in order to bring the benefits and advantages of NAC accreditation to the blind and visually impaired students who now and in the future will attend" nonaccredited schools for the blind in Virginia.

Enthusiastic Response to Training Seminar

Over 20 attendees at the 1984 Annual Meeting took part in NAC's first training seminar for members of on-site review teams that visit organizations applying for accreditation or reaccreditation. The two-part program will serve as the prototype for future team member training seminars.

The purpose of the training seminar was to strengthen the skills of team mem-

bers in preparing for and carrying out their on-site review responsibilities. Activities included small group discussions, interviewing "role playing" agency directors, and preparing and analyzing detailed reports.

Participants agreed that the seminar provided a true simulation of the actual review process as well as the opportunity to work closely with their peers. Their

individual reaction forms indicated that the seminar was a worthwhile experience; all who responded asked to serve on a future team.

A special thanks is extended to Robert J. Crouse, William J. Leeder, Jr., Clifford E. Olstrom, and Charles C. Woodcock for serving as trainers during the seminar.

FOCUS ON The 4-Sights Network A Product of NAC Accreditation

by Carroll Jackson, Executive Director, Greater Detroit Society for the Blind

The process of accreditation has many positive effects on organizations which enter into it with the needs of the client in mind. For the Greater Detroit Society for the Blind one of the major outcomes has been the constant quest for excellence. The belief that we as professionals can improve our skills and expand our knowledge is deeply ingrained in our agency's psyche. Our questioning of existing policies, our analysis of client needs and our willingness to try new approaches, have led to many innovations. Such programs as Careers Day for high school students and the development of the Occupational Information Library for the Blind (1974) were direct responses to perceived needs of the visually impaired.

In recent years, the application of technology to overcome sensory loss has profoundly changed the realities facing the visually impaired. Education and employment opportunities, which previously were closed or quite limited, are now accessible through the use of specialized devices. Talking computers, large-print displays, and braille input-output devices have brought the visually impaired into a direct relationship with the information age.

As a NAC-accredited rehabilitation agency, we conduct an annual review of our services and our clients' needs. The results of this review are incorporated into our 5-Year Planning document. In 1983 this process revealed that the Occupational Information Library for the Blind was rapidly approaching obsolescence. Many new employment opportunities which were not possible before the advent of computers needed to be added to the library to bring it up to date. The rapidity of change in the employment sector and the likelihood that the rate of change would continue to accelerate necessitated a major change. We could either give up our many years of investment in the OILB or undertake a major revision. Because of our deep commitment to the visually impaired, the

decision to update was quickly made.

The realization that we could be facing annual updating and the associated costs greatly dampened our enthusiasm. As we searched for options, the application of the computer to our problem seemed to offer some major advantages. By placing the OILB into an electronic form, it could be updated continually, and by adding a modem this information could be accessed by persons anywhere in the country. As we examined further this teleconferencing approach to our service delivery needs, it became clear that many other appropriate information services, impossible before, were now economically feasible.

By December of 1983, our Board of Trustees was so committed to this new approach to service delivery that it approved a major expenditure. The selection of a computer consultant, identification of appropriate computer hardware and software and their installation have taken place through 1984. Currently, the system is undergoing user trials and is scheduled to begin accepting subscribers in April 1985.



Pamela Berryman, a visually impaired employee, reviews information from the 4-Sights Network using a DP-11 large-print display.

The name selected for this program was the 4-Sights Network. This evolved from the four major areas that we wished to emphasize: the educational, vocational, technological, and professional concerns of the visually

impaired. To access the 4-Sights Network, the subscriber will need a computer or terminal equipped with a modem and a communications program that emulates the VT-100 terminal standard. By calling our computer at 313-272-7111 the caller will be given the necessary information to become a subscriber. Cost for using the system is seven dollars per hour for the first twenty-five hours and declines with additional use.

Our multi-user computer system with its electronic mail, teleconferencing software, and multiple phone lines will provide persons in the blindness system with a means to communicate quickly and efficiently with each other anywhere in the country.

How 4-Sights is ultimately used will depend on the subscribers. They will have the ability to add new conference topics to the system as they desire. Currently, we have identified several categories which we feel will have widespread appeal. Such services as a calendar of events, a job exchange, aids and appliances listings and reviews, and software reviews have been structured to encourage communications around these topics. The OILB will be accessible shortly in this new electronic form.

The accreditation process has brought us to this point. Not only did it provide the impetus to improve services, but it also helped greatly in funding this new undertaking. Being accredited has made a substantial difference in our ability to attract contributions to our agency. The establishment of the 4-Sights Network with the freely given contributed dollars has further stimulated donations of major pieces of equipment. During 1984, our accredited status was a factor in the receipt of a Kurzweil Reading Machine and a Versabaille. During 1985, we anticipate the receipt of a TED-600 Braille Embosser from yet another donor. Accreditation is making a difference for our agency and, more importantly, for our clients.

NAC Developments

by Marion D. Bondurant,
Director of Development

Traditionally *The Standard-Bearer* has been devoted primarily to information on standards and accreditation and news of accredited members and the field of work with the blind and visually handicapped. Beginning with this issue, we will from time to time supplement the information provided in the Annual Report on some of the contributions received to support NAC's important program activities and its general operation.

To date this fiscal year, some of the more outstanding gifts have been: A \$25,000 grant to NAC from the Herman Goldman Foundation for the purchase of new computer equipment to improve our internal operation. Several trustees responded generously with special gifts to help NAC with expenses incurred because of its relocation to new headquarters in December. Ruth Kaarlela made a contri-

bution toward the staff lounge, as did Charles Cozier, whose gift was in memory of his father, Kenneth Cozier, one of NAC's founders. Huntington Harris and Arthur Brandon, a Director Emeritus, both contributed toward the general relocation expense. Mr. Harris' gift was in memory of Douglas MacFarland, a long-time supporter of NAC and one of its first board members.

The National Industries for the Blind has approved a \$20,000 grant to NAC for revision of the workshop standards, a project slated to begin soon. The Pew Memorial Trust is in the second and final year of a two-year grant providing \$50,000 a year for revision of the Management Standards. Renewed annual support has been received from Mobil, Exxon, and General Electric along with new gifts from the General Mills Foundation and Grumman Corporation.

This fiscal year NAC has redoubled its efforts to gain increased support from the corporate and foundation community. Tremendous efforts are presently underway to present NAC's case statement to a major segment of the philanthropic community. We are optimistic that in the months to come we will be able to report many more positive results. Additionally, NAC must continue to depend on its loyal support from those individual donors who firmly believe in standard-setting and accreditation. The generosity of these individuals will help ensure the continuation of quality educational and rehabilitative services for persons who are blind and visually handicapped. If you firmly believe in NAC's perpetuity, please call for information on how you may continue its work through the deferred giving program.

NAC Notes

■ Congratulations to **Jansen Noyes, Jr.** and **Harold Richterman** on receiving the M.C. Migel Medal. Mr. Noyes, Honorary Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the American Foundation for the Blind, led the way for creation of the Commission on Standards for Accreditation in 1965 which resulted in the formation of NAC. Mr. Richterman, Director, Rehabilitation Services, National Industries for the Blind, serves on NAC's Commission on Advancement of Accreditation and the national standards advisory committee for the revision of NAC's management standards.

■ **Helen Keller Services for the Blind**, Brooklyn, New York, formerly IHB Services for the Blind; and **State Services for the Blind**, Phoenix, Arizona, formerly Services for the Blind Section.

■ Best wishes for an enjoyable and relaxing retirement to **Marion R. Campbell**, Executive Director, Lancaster County Branch, Pennsylvania Association for the Blind; **Milton A. Jahoda**, Executive Director, Cincinnati Association for the Blind, Ohio; **Sr. Mary Kuiken**, Administrator, St. Joseph's School for the Blind, Jersey City, New Jersey; and **Charles C. Woodcock**, Director, Perkins School for the Blind, Watertown, Massachusetts. . . welcome to their successors: **Edward C. McFerren**, Lancaster County Branch, PAB; **Carl R. Augusto**, Cincinnati Association for the Blind; **Herbert Miller**, St. Joseph's School for the Blind; and **Kevin Lessard**, Acting Director, Perkins School for the Blind.

■ The following are changes at other accredited organizations: **William T. Coppage** appointed Commissioner, Virginia Department for the Visually Handicapped, Richmond; **Jane Egi** appointed Administrator, Services for the Blind Branch, Honolulu, Hawaii; **Robert Gates**, Interim Superintendent, Michigan School for the Blind, Lansing; **Raymond Hunter**, Superintendent, Tennessee School for the Blind, Donelson; **William J. Leeder, Jr.** appointed President, Association for the Blind and for Sight Conservation, Grand Rapids, Michigan; **Laurie McArthur**, Executive Director, Service Center for Visually Impaired, Flint, Michigan; and **David Miller**, Director, Division of Services to the Visually Impaired, Pierre, South Dakota.

Commission on Advancement of Accreditation Sets '85 Goals

At its November 9, 1984 meeting in Boston, Massachusetts, NAC's Commission on Advancement of Accreditation (formerly the Commission on Advancement of Standards) chose to focus on the following in 1985: (1) to identify nonaccredited agencies and schools and stimulate their interest in accreditation; (2) to encourage greater consumer involvement in NAC's efforts; (3) to increase the number of Sponsoring and Supporting organizations and the number of resolutions passed in support of accreditation; and (4) to urge that increased emphasis be placed on the effort to link funding and accreditation and to assist the National Steering Committee on Standards and Accreditation in achieving this goal.

Commission Chairperson Richard G. Umsted was "pleased and encouraged to hear Commission members report on

their efforts and progress during 1984. The Commission stands ready and willing to assist all individuals and organizations working to improve services through standards and accreditation, and continues to encourage consumer, professional, and public participation in NAC."

Dr. Umsted recognized the continued financial assistance being offered by the American Foundation for the Blind and National Industries for the Blind to agencies in need that wish to apply for first-time accreditation. He noted two new official NAC Supporters and cited the continuing efforts of the American Council of the Blind and the Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired to encourage their members and affiliates to unite with NAC for standards and accreditation.

The Standard-Bearer Official Publication of the National Accreditation Council

James D. McComas, Ph.D., *President*
Dennis L. Hartenstine, *Executive Director*
Pamela D. Zion, *Editor*

The Standard-Bearer is published by the National Accreditation Council for Agencies Serving the Blind and Visually Handicapped (NAC), an organization whose mission is to improve the quality of services provided to blind and visually handicapped persons through standards and accreditation. Comments, suggestions and contributions are welcome and encouraged. Please address all correspondence, including changes, additions, or deletions to our mailing list, to the Editor at the NAC office, 15 West 65th Street, 9th Floor, New York, New York 10023, Telephone (212) 496-5880.

The Standard-Bearer is printed in 12 point type to help facilitate reading by persons who have impaired vision. Issues of this newsletter are available on flexible disc for interested blind and visually handicapped persons.

■ **New Address and Phone Number for NAC** ■
■ **15 West 65th Street, 9th Floor, New York, N.Y. 10023 (212) 496-5880** ■

Spotlight on AER

(Continued from page 3)

Wisconsin—have expressed their support of the value of standards and accreditation by participating as official Supporting members of NAC. Such commitment and encouragement from professionals help to assure that the standards reflect the best thinking of those directly involved in services and helps to increase the number of agencies and schools seeking to strengthen their management and services through accreditation.

The leadership of AER is committed to working with other national organizations in a cooperative spirit, and maintains that NAC represents an effective vehicle through which AER members can work to strengthen the services available to blind persons. And AER, through its meetings, publications, and individual members, can provide NAC with access to the ideas and practices of a large portion of the community of service providers.

Dr. Welsh suggests that members "get involved by encouraging their own schools and agencies to consider applying for NAC accreditation if they have not already done so, by offering to serve on NAC on-site review teams as I have, by becoming familiar with the standards that NAC uses in evaluations, and by

actively participating when standards are developed and reviewed. In this way, AER members can be an active ongoing part of this very important movement in the field of services to the blind and visually impaired."

As Superintendent of the first residential school for the blind to have been accredited by NAC, and after having served as chairperson of a NAC on-site review team, Dr. Welsh sees himself "in a good position to verify the benefits accrued through the accreditation process. As the only specialized education facility for blind children in the state of Maryland, it would be easy to become complacent and to act as if we were the only authority in this area of specialty. If this were to happen, the quality of our services would soon deteriorate. The accreditation process allows us to compare ourselves against nationally accepted standards. And, once we have completed our self-study, a qualified team of objective peers visits the campus to assess our facilities and how we measure up against our own self-evaluation. In sum, the accreditation process helps us to be objective about ourselves. Without this type of periodic review, we could either believe that we are doing better than we really are, or that we are worse

(Continued on back cover)

Remember

The American Foundation for the Blind and National Industries for the Blind offer financial assistance to agencies in need that are interested in seeking accreditation for the first time. Contact NAC for information.

Spotlight on AER

(Continued from page 7)

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"As all who have served on a NAC on-site review team know, this service is an extremely challenging professional experience, especially as you work long into the night to complete the task. In a very short time you are asked to form impressions about a complex organization and to make some recommendations that will be reinforcing and helpful. The process tends to bring forth the best that the team members have to offer in the areas of observation, persuasion, compromise, and writing.

"Both the self-study and on-site review help to set powerful dynamics in motion which can lead to very positive changes in an organization. Ultimately, these changes are helping to improve the quality of the agencies and schools serving blind and visually impaired children and adults throughout the country. Those who value this direction, as AER

members do, should continue and increase their support of the accreditation program so that it will be available to help other organizations better themselves in the future."

Dr. Welsh sees in the future of services to the blind "the continued strengthening of the specific disciplines that have emerged in recent years such as orientation and mobility, rehabilitation teaching, teaching multiply handicapped students, and low vision." In talking about the present concern that categorical services will disappear, Dr. Welsh asserts that "this would be very harmful for the blind people of the future who will need specialized services in order to lead independent, productive lives. AER can prevent this through effective legislative work, so that decision-makers come to understand how important these services are. We are an organization committed to playing an important role in the development and maintenance of these services, and blind and visually impaired persons nationwide will benefit as a result."

This special issue of The Standard-Bearer features an article on the Association for Education for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (AER) and its support for accreditation. We are mailing it to you as a member of AER as part of our commitment to improving the awareness of the National Accreditation Council. To receive future issues free of charge send your name and address to the NAC office.

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The Standard-Bearer

NATIONAL ACCREDITATION COUNCIL

FOR AGENCIES SERVING THE BLIND & VISUALLY HANDICAPPED



NAC Accredits 100th Agency

Chairperson John R. Proffitt has announced that the Commission on Accreditation granted first-time accreditation to three agencies for the blind and visually handicapped during its December meeting. This brings the total number of accredited organizations to an all time high of 100. NAC congratulates Delaware County Branch, Pennsylvania Association for the Blind, Chester, Pennsylvania (William J. DeAngelis, Managing Director); Rockland County Association for the Visually Impaired, Pomona, New York (Ruth C. Wein, Executive Director); and Savannah Association for the Blind, Georgia (W. Chandler Simmons, Executive Director) on their achievement.

Four organizations were approved for reaccreditation — Cincinnati Association for the Blind, Ohio; Cloverbrook Home and School for the Blind, Cincinnati, Ohio; New Hampshire Association for the Blind, Concord; and South Dakota School for the Visually Handicapped, Aberdeen.

In other actions, the Commission extended the accreditation of two organizations, postponed a decision on one applicant for initial accreditation, and placed three accredited organizations on warning.

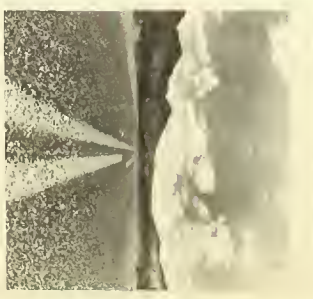
Mr. Proffitt also announced recently that the Procedures for Handling Complaints Against Accredited Organizations have been revised and are available in print or on cassette. Anyone interested in reviewing them can obtain a copy from the NAC office or from any NAC-accredited organization.

Journal Highlights Accreditation

The Fall 1984 issue of *The Rehabilitative Optometry Journal* carried a feature article on the accreditation of the William Feinbloom Vision Rehabilitation Center, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the first low vision clinic outside a multiservice agency for the blind to have achieved NAC accreditation. Based on interviews with Dr. Charles Mullen, Executive Director of The Eye Institute, Dr. Richard Brilliant, Chief of the Center, and Mrs. Amy Grossman, the Center's Human Service Administrator, the article covers the work of the clinic, the reasons they applied for NAC accreditation, and their experience with and positive results gained through the process.

Reprints of the article are available from the NAC office.

REHABILITATIVE OPTOMETRY



IN THIS ISSUE:

Dr. Charles Mullen, Executive Director of The Eye Institute, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Spotlight on AER

(Continued from page 7)

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NATIONAL ACCREDITATION COUNCIL

for Agencies Serving the Blind

& Visually Handicapped

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